

Iraq sends message to S. Arabia

RIYADH (AP) — Iraq's deputy prime minister Saturday delivered a verbal message from President Saddam Hussein to the Saudi monarch, King Fahd, the Saudi Press agency said. Taha Yassin Ramadan arrived unexpectedly from Baghdad earlier in the day, diplomats said. The Saudi agency said the meeting also was attended by Crown Prince Abdullah, Defence Minister Prince Sultan and Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal. The Iraqi News Agency said the message concerned bilateral relations, the Iraq-Iraq peace talks and Arab developments, including the newly founded Arab Cooperation Council. The Council groups Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and North Yemen in an economic accord signed in Baghdad Feb. 16. On Friday, INA reported that King Fahd sent President Hussein a message through the Saudi ambassador in Baghdad, Tarad Al Hariti. It said the message dealt with bilateral ties and their development in various fields, with no other detail. Arab diplomats linked Ramadan's visit with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's talks in Iraq.

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Cabinet approves committee minutes

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday approved the minutes of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee meeting recently held in Amman. During a regular session chaired by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, the Cabinet also approved the exchange of memorandums between Jordan and West Germany over a project for producing seeds. The project would be executed in cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture, the University of Jordan and the German Agency for Technical Assistance. The project aims at producing improved seeds of barley and wheat, train Jordanian technicians in the field and set a laboratory for this purpose. The Cabinet also approved the budget of Jordan Arabic Academy.



A delegation representing the Arab-Canadian Council of Commerce holds talks with Amman Chamber of Industry officials Saturday

Prospects studied for Canadian investments

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday met with a delegation representing the Arab-Canadian Council of Commerce and reviewed prospects for Canadian investments in Jordan and other members of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC). The Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

The visiting delegation also held talks with the chairman and members of the board of directors of the Amman Chamber of Industry and Jordanian industrial investors.

Talks focused on means to develop bilateral relations, open new horizons for economic cooperation, and increase the size of trade exchange, Petra said. Technological cooperation and means to transfer Canadian technology to Jordan, were also discussed.

Amman Chamber of Industry

King: No new initiative needed, solution in 242

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

TOKYO — His Majesty King Hussein said Saturday that efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict do not need any new initiatives since the solution lies in implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and the concept of exchange of land for peace.



HM King Hussein

said, is due to short-sightedness on the part of some sides in the region or extremists. He called on

the international community not to allow itself to be held hostage by the short-sighted or extremists and said the world was waiting for moves towards settling the Middle East conflict.

Referring to statements made by U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker that an hurried move should be made towards a Middle East settlement, the King expressed hope that too much time would not be wasted. He noted that the international mood had changed in the recent years and turned towards reducing regional tension.

President Ronald Reagan had different priorities while Bush realises how grave the situation is in the Middle East because he has

(Continued on page 3)

Al Hussein meets Baudouin

TOKYO (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday held a meeting with King Baudouin of Belgium during which both sides discussed relations between the two countries and means of boosting ties in all fields.

Jordan, S. Yemen review ties, ACC

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and South Yemen Saturday opened meetings to discuss bilateral relations, regional and international developments and Arab affairs.

The meeting involved South Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dali, who arrived here earlier Saturday, and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and aides.

The two sides reviewed efforts for convening an international Middle East peace conference, the on-going Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, recent developments following Jordan's decision to sever links with the West Bank and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's decision to recognise U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and 338. Also discussed was the proclamation



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and South Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dali hold a meeting Saturday attended by aides (Petra photo)

on Feb. 16 of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which groups Jordan, North Yemen, Iraq and Egypt.

A statement following the meeting said that both sides held identical views on all matters discussed and backed steps leading towards pan-Arab integration.

Dali said that South Yemen backs Jordan's moves on the Arab arena.

According to the statement, the two sides examined prospects for bilateral cooperation in cultural, economic, educational, health and information fields.

Dali arrived earlier in the day on a four-day official visit to Amman and was met by Qasem and other officials.

He said in an arrival statement that he was carrying a message to

U.S. president lauds Chinese progress, better Soviet ties

PEKING (Agencies) — U.S. President George Bush Saturday began a sentimental visit to China, where he once was a diplomat, with a U.S.-style gesture of friendship and lavish praise for Peking's economic progress.

He also went out of his way to pat Chinese leaders on the back for deciding to mend relations with Moscow.

"The prospect of improved relations between China and the Soviet Union inspires hope for new progress in the search for self-determination and peace for the (Kampuchean) people and stability for Korea," Bush said in a toast at a banquet given by President Yang Shangkun.

Bush, who has repeatedly said he believes a Sino-Soviet summit scheduled in May is a positive development, devoted most of his remarks to gains made in China

since he and his wife, Barbara, lived and worked here nearly 15 years ago.

Bush was U.S. envoy to Peking in 1974 and 1975, a time when China and the United States were just beginning to establish friendly ties after a quarter century of hostility.

"Since then, including this visit, I have been back five times Barbara six times. And each time we come, we are fascinated by the dynamic change and growth," he said.

Your new and far sighted economic programme is already improving the lives of the people, as it will for generations to come," Bush said.

The president, who arrived from Tokyo where he attended the funeral of Emperor Hirohito, started his visit with a goodwill gesture familiar in American



George Bush

election campaigns.

As his motorcade rolled through Tiananmen Square, a sprawling plaza in the centre of Peking, Bush stopped his car and got out to greet bystanders.

"I know this guy," he said as he shook hands with a Chinese man. "Good to see you all again," he told the crowd generally. "It's warm here, warmer than I remember."

When Bush and his wife arrived at a government guest house, Premier Li Peng had a surprise for them — two brand new bicycles like the ones they used for riding around when they were stationed in Peking.

Chinese President Yang Shangkun, who greeted Bush at the banquet, said his visit so soon after taking office shows "amicable feelings toward the Chinese people" and the importance he

Education in Jordan — a Princess' views

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times



HRH Princess Alia

AMMAN — The Royal Family in Jordan, particularly His Royal Highness Princess Alia, who is also enthusiastic about the subject, contributed her observations on the need to reform the education system in Jordanian schools and universities.

"We must allow the students to use their minds and conclude matters on their own," Princess Alia says. "They cannot learn by being told to learn."

She argues that the lack of dialogue in school rooms, along with an archaic curriculum that is often alien to the students' environment, lies at the heart of the education problem.

Students, she believes, "must enjoy their classes be-

fore they can learn anything. They must be allowed to question things and this means, we must first educate the teachers."

Asked how a change in the education method can be affected, Princess Alia said: "Teachers must have open minds. They must abandon the traditional way of teaching because the worst thing is to have a closed mind. Some officials have very inflexible minds and they do not want to change or accept different opinions."

Princess Alia believes that the Ministry of Education has been very slow in adopting modern methods of education and accepting change in the system.

"I do not exactly know why

Uprising leaders hail Soviet move

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Leaders of the Palestinian uprising praised Soviet Middle East peace efforts Saturday and condemned the U.S. veto of a U.N. Security Council motion censuring Israeli actions in the occupied territories.

A communiqué from the uprising's underground leadership urged the Security Council to back efforts for an international Middle East peace conference and called on Israelis to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"The Unified Leadership of the Uprising welcomes the tour of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to the region and Soviet efforts to convene an international conference," it said.

"The leadership condemning the repressive practices against our people," it added.

The U.N. motion, submitted earlier this month, strongly criticised Israel's use of lethal force to combat the uprising. At least 392

Shevardnadze arrives in Iran

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in Tehran Saturday for talks with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on the final leg of a 10-day Middle East mission.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia, said Shevardnadze carried a message for Khomeini from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, but gave no hint about its contents.

The visit by Shevardnadze, the highest-ranking Soviet official to visit Iran since the 1979 revolution, emphasised a thaw in the long-strained relations between Tehran and Moscow.

That was underlined by his scheduled meeting with Khomeini, 88 and who rarely gives audiences to foreign dignitaries. IRNA did not say when Shevardnadze will meet Iran's revolutionary patriarch.

Khomeini sent Gorbachev an unprecedented personal message last month, praising his reforms and urging him to pay more attention to the Soviet people's spiritual needs.

Shevardnadze flew to the Iranian capital from Baghdad.

Before leaving, Shevardnadze called for the withdrawal of foreign navies from the Gulf and said that Moscow was ready to pull out its warships in an effort to

Palestinians have died since it erupted Dec. 9, 1987.

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, who met Shevardnadze in Cairo this week, told Israeli Radio the Soviets had a "narrow and distorted" view of the Middle East and praised the U.S. administration's call for caution before embarking on new initiatives.

A six-year-old Gaza Strip girl was in critical condition with a broken skull after being shot by troops Saturday, and seven other Palestinians were wounded in clashes elsewhere, doctors said.

In the West Bank city of Nablus, the army enforced a curfew and raided dozens of homes in search of Palestinians who killed a soldier by allegedly dropping a cement block on his head from a rooftop.

Chief of staff Dan Shomron vowed to step up army control over the occupied territories in response to the death Friday of Binayamin Meisner 24, a reserve paratrooper.

Meeting discusses housing strategy

AMMAN (Petra) — A workshop designed to lay the foundation for a national strategy on housing in Jordan was held at the Ministry of Public Works and Housing Saturday under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

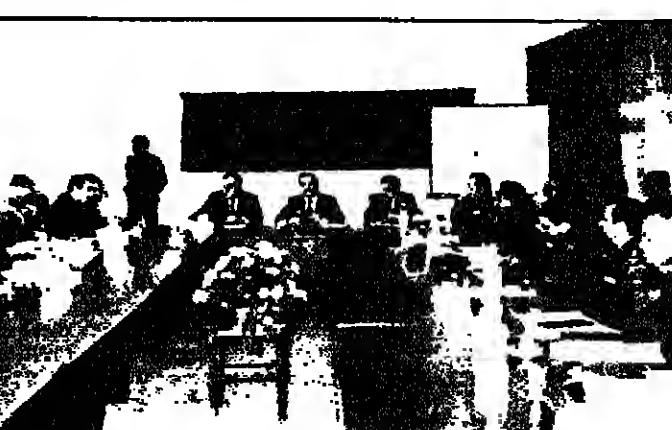
Participants representing the Housing Corporation and the Armed Forces discussed scopes of cooperation in setting up housing units in general and the idea of setting up 50 model units to serve as a nucleus for future cooperation.

The meeting discussed initiating a unified plan catering for public utilities and creating a special fund to finance proper utilisation of land for housing projects.

Sports agreement

Also Saturday, the Regent met at the Ministry of Planning with Dr. Abdul Ahad Jamaluddin, chairman of the Higher Council of Sports and Youth in Egypt. The Regent congratulated the Egyptian official and Minister of Youth Awad Kheifaf on the conclusion of an agreement, paving the way for bilateral cooperation in sports and youth fields (see page 3).

Kheifaf and Minister of Planning Taher Kanan attended the meeting.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday chairs a meeting of Housing Corporation and Armed Forces representatives on a national housing strategy (Petra photo)

Lebanese Central Bank governor holds purse strings — at a price

By Mohammad Salam
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Central Bank Governor Edmond Naim holds the purse strings of Lebanon's rival military and civilian governments, but such responsibility carries a price.

Naim is a virtual prisoner in the bank, where he has lived for 19 months for his own safety. Naim is a Maronite Catholic; the bank is in predominantly Muslim west Beirut.

The bank is the only government institution that remains intact in Lebanon's five-month-old political crisis, which has split the government, the army and every other department down the middle.

This has given the 70-year-old Naim unprecedented powers. He said he bankrolls "the basic needs" of both competing governments, including food and fuel imports, to prevent a complete collapse of Lebanon's fractured public services.

But Naim threatened to resign Friday to protest a reported attempt by the head of the nation's military cabinet to prosecute him for misuse of power. Two of his four deputies also threatened to quit.

The bank's estimated 750 employees declared a 24-hour strike in Beirut and other cities

to protest orders from army commander and leader of the military government Michel Aoun to prosecute Naim. They threatened to extend the strike indefinitely unless the charges against Naim were dropped.

"I don't know why they want to prosecute me. I'm ready to submit my resignation," Naim said.

Lebanon's official radio said among the charges Naim faces were "misuse of authority, mismanagement and failure to control manipulation in certain financial institutions."

However, Beirut's Al Safir daily has described the Central Bank under Naim as "a small republic" and noted that it has been able to "protect people's property and preserve Lebanon's unity."

Naim's only official in this country behaving like a father to all the Lebanese, said Adnan Badra, a businessman in west Beirut.

Although the economy has been devastated by nearly 14 years of civil war, the Central Bank has gold reserves estimated at about \$5 billion, with \$800 million in foreign currency.

The bank's cash flow depends on whatever income tax, excise and customs duties the two governments can collect. Other sources of income include revenue from government-owned properties, trade

in foreign exchange and deposits by commercial banks. "The Central Bank finances the whole of Lebanon according to a formula of equality and in line with the population and area each of the governments rules," Naim said.

The Central Bank also sets interest rates and provides banks with local currency.

In June 1987, when Prime Minister Rashid Karami was assassinated, Naim moved into the bank headquarters. He hasn't left since then.

"It's more practical to live in the bank," he said in a recent interview in his plush sixth-floor office. "The streets aren't safe."

An aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity, noted: "The governor was advised not to leave the bank at all for personal safety considerations. In a country like Lebanon, violence has no limits."

So Naim now lives in a specially built two-room apartment on the roof of the seven-story bank building, which is guarded by 50 armed policemen. "I cook, wash my dishes, do my laundry and tend my plants there," Naim said.

His wife, a naturalized American of German descent, travels from the family home in east Beirut across the capital's dividing green line "every two weeks for a weekend with me

at the bank," Naim said. The current political crisis began last September, when President Amin Gemayel's six-year term expired with no successor elected because of sectarian bickering.

Gemayel named Aoun, his army commander, to head a caretaker military cabinet until a new president was elected.

Muslim and leftist factions refused to recognize Aoun and backed acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss, who headed the government under Gemayel after Karami was assassinated.

That left Naim in the Middle, and he was managed so far to stay in the eye of the political hurricane. The lawyer and former university dean, who was brought out of retirement in 1983 to run the bank, also has shown he will not be bullied.

Aoun has sought to impose his military government's authority on the Central Bank. Last December, he closed the only crossing point between east and west Beirut for 10 days after Naim allocated funds to army units under his military rival, Major-General Sami Khaddi.

Naim responded by providing the equivalent of \$1 million to Hoss' government to import flour because Aoun's blockade choked off supplies from the main warehouses in east Beirut.



Saddam Hussein

Iraqi president pledges Basra homes

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein told residents of the war-ravaged city of Basra Friday that the government would build them better homes, Baghdad Television reported.

"There will be no more houses in Basra built of mud... the government will extend facilities to build new modern houses," he told them on the second day of a visit to the southern city.

The government has allocated billions of dollars to rebuild Basra, intensively shelled by Iran during the Gulf war. Thousands of soldiers are taking part in the reconstruction.

The television showed Hussein fishing in the disputed Shatt Al-Arab waterway with his wife Sajida Khairallah, his second son Qusay, his youngest daughter Hala and Defence Minister Adnan Khairallah.

In the background were two half-submerged ships, among 74 trapped in the waterway when the war erupted in September 1980. Peace talks which began soon after the August 1988 ceasefire have been stalled over Iraq's demand that the Shatt Al-Arab be cleared of hulks and other war debris as a priority.

Iran, which disputes sovereignty over the border waterway, insists the matter is a side issue. Hussein was also seen visiting the town of Fao further south and praying with his wife in the mosque, whose minaret had been holed by a shell.

A sign at the entrance to the town read: "The blood of 52,948 persons was shed here."

It was not clear whether this meant Iraqis killed or injured but the Fao peninsula was the scene of some of the savagest fighting of the war.

The television said Hussein received a message from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia during his tour Friday. It said the message, dealing with ways to develop relations, was delivered in Basra by the Saudi ambassador, Tarrad Abdullah Al Harithi.

Mahdi signals move to widen political base of government

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, apparently yielding ground to Sudan's officer corps, has said he wants to broaden the political base of his government.

The Sudanese news agency (SUNA) reported Mahdi's statement Saturday after meetings between the elected prime minister and army leaders calling for formation of a government of national salvation.

"Widening the scope of participation in government is actually the best formula," SUNA quoted Mahdi as saying.

The political base of Mahdi's government contracted at the end of last year when moderates pulled out after failing to push through a peace agreement with southern rebels.

Their withdrawal left Mahdi more dependent than ever on militant Muslims, whose policies are anathema to the non-Muslim southerners and rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

About 150 army commanders signed a memorandum Tuesday giving Mahdi a week to reply. According to local press reports, their demands included additional military supplies or a peace settlement with the rebels.

SUNA said that Mahdi issued a seven-point statement citing "the necessity of obeying the constitution and the rules of military discipline."

The prime minister told army leaders that they should assess their performance and he rejected what he called "plotting and ill-will in handling national issues," the agency said.

He said Sudan should "work towards the achievement of a just and acceptable peace formula" but gave no details.

"Defending the country and its lands represents the foremost task of both the army and government," he said.

The SPLA, which is based in the south, has been fighting since 1983 to end what it sees as unjust domination by the north.

Mahdi said through a spokesman Thursday that the military has assured him that the one-week ultimatum was not final.

The spokesman, Information Minister Beshir Omar, quoted Mahdi as saying that received the assurances during a meeting with army officers whom he did not identify.

Friday's statements were taken to mean Mahdi will try to have back the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) into his coalition. The DUP, then a junior partner in Mahdi's cabinet, reached a peace agreement with the SPLA Nov. 16. It withdrew from the government when Mahdi refused to submit the accord either to parliament or the cabinet for endorsement.

The statement said "although the memo (ultimatum) of the armed forces did not tackle the peace issue, the prime minister is of the opinion to work for a just peace that gives everybody his due without submission or dictations."

Saying "the defence of the country and its protection is our first duty," the statement called on the "military leadership" to "study the military performance and reform it." It did not elabo-

rate but it was believed to be referring to the fall of some southern army defended towns in the hands of the SPLA.

The statement pointed out that the army, in its memo, has committed itself to "democracy and defending it against all forms of dictatorship."

After issuing the memorandum Monday, a military spokesman said it made "certain demands" but that he would not characterize it as a coup threat.

Mahdi's statement said the army's memo contained "a number of facts" over which there is no divergence in the view points. He summarised these facts as commitments to democracy, legitimacy, rejections of all forms of dictatorship, protection of the national soil and the need of a unified internal front.

The statement sought to downplay the gravity of the army's move by saying that the army officers explained to Mahdi that by setting the one week time, they only meant to urge the government to quicken its response to their demands.

Omar said the text of the army's memo would not be published as the military demanded because it contained some sensitive points.

The army's memo was issued after Defence Minister Abdul Magid Khalil resigned Tuesday to protest the government's refusal to accept the peace agreement.

Khalil said Mahdi's policies had left Sudan starving, bankrupt and isolated from potential aid donors fed up with the six-year-old civil war.

Canada considering upgrading contacts with PLO — Clark

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Canadian External Affairs Minister Joe Clark said Friday a strong case could be made for stepping up the level of Canada's contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

He also said he hoped moderate forces in Iran would be able to "reassert their moderate influence" so that the death threat against author Salman Rushdie by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini might be withdrawn.

Responding to reporters' questions during a visit to the United Nations, Clark said: "There have been some very important developments in the Middle East and we certainly intend to find ways to ensure that Canada can play an active and constructive role in that region."

Asked whether that might include upgrading the level of contact with PLO officials, he said: "That could. We have had a quite useful level of contact with PLO

officials over the last few years and certainly a very strong case can be made that it would be appropriate for Canada to step that up. We are looking at that."

Questioned about the row over Rushdie, whose novel "The Satanic Verses" has been denounced by Khomeini as insulting to Muslims, Clark said:

"I hope that the moderate forces who have been showing such promise in Iran over the last six to seven months will be able and will be allowed to reassert their moderate influence so that this death threat, which everyone finds offensive, will be withdrawn."

He understood, and was part of, the Western reaction of outrage over the threat, Clark said.

"But the point is not simply to be outraged. The point is to try to have it ended. And it seems to me that one of the things that we have to do is use every line we have to the moderate leaders in

Iran to see if there is any practical way in which we can have that threat reviewed, and then have the focus turn back to the moderate leadership in Iran rather than to the statements of the ayatollah, which have always been extreme and whom we have always known as an extremist."

Agreeing that Khomeini was in the ascendant, he added: "One of the unfortunate elements of this controversy is that the reaction by Western media and public and governments may well have the effect of increasing his ascendancy."

While at the United Nations, Clark handed over a cheque for \$10 million as part of Canada's contribution to the U.N. operation that will help oversee Namibia's independence from South Africa.

He said Canada, which will supply a logistics unit for the operation, called the U.N. Transition Assistance Group (UN-



Joe Clark

TAG), was the first country to pay its share of the \$416-million operation.

Clark also conferred with a number of U.N. officials and attended a small reception for Canadian Major-General Clive Milner, who will shortly take over as commander of the U.N. Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

U.N.: Israel responsible for killing of Irish trooper

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations lodged strong protest with Israel Friday after an Irish U.N. soldier in southern Lebanon was killed by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, a U.N. spokesman said.

Under-Secretary General Markack Goulding, in charge of U.N. peace-keeping operations, called in Israeli U.N. representative Johanan Bein and protested strongly over the incident, the spokesman said.

Goulding reiterated the U.N. position that Israel was responsible for the SLA and did not accept Israel's contention that the SLA acted independently.

The spokesman identified the Irish soldier as Private Michael McNeela, 21, and said the SLA opened fire from a position overlooking a U.N. checkpoint in the village of Hadathab that McNeela was manning.

The area was calm at the time and the SLA fired a heavy machinegun burst without provocation, the spokesman said. McNeela, on his second tour of duty with the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and due to be married soon, was hit by a .50 calibre bullet and died a short time later.

He was the 26th Irish soldier to die in UNIFIL service and the 160th fatality suffered by the force, established in 1978.

The U.N. spokesman said that since the beginning of December 1988 the same SLA position had fired 34 times at Irish positions, including seven times at the one where McNeela was killed. Another Irish soldier was wounded Jan. 24 as a result of unprovoked firing from the same SLA post.

"The recent upsurge of SLA's deliberate and unprovoked firing to UNIFIL positions, mostly Ir-



Markack Goulding

ish, has been persistently protested with the Israeli army but nothing had come out of these protests," the spokesman said.

"On Jan. 27, the commander of the Irish battalion had personally protested to the senior (Israeli) liaison officer, who had not only agreed with the protest but also promised to take measures to stop such firings," he added.

Najibullah urges U.N. mechanism to end war

KABUL (R) — President Najibullah appealed Saturday for a new United Nations mechanism for bringing peace to war-torn Afghanistan.

In a speech to a new session of the National Assembly, he called on the United States and neighbouring Pakistan to seize the opportunity for "opening a new page" in their relations with the country.

Najibullah poured scorn on a recent "Shura" (council) held in Pakistan by Western-backed Afghan rebels and called on deputies and senators to seek contacts with local guerrilla commanders and persuade them to stop fighting.

The rebels have pledged to overthrow Najibullah's Soviet-backed government and dismiss

the parliament, elected last spring, as a puppet assembly. Najibullah said in his half-hour speech that Afghanistan needed the help of the international community more than ever before in its history.

"The humanitarian and moral obligation of the human community to help the people of Afghanistan establish peace in their country has become more profound," he said, according to the government interpreter.

"In the present circumstances, a new and effective mechanism has to be set up within the framework of the United Nations... activated with the assistance of member countries."

He gave no further details. Najibullah's government has in the past made various proposals

for a new U.N. role in ending the 10-year-old Afghan war, including introduction of a peace-keeping force and collection of the weapons which have flooded into the country.

A team of U.N. monitors has been in Afghanistan and Pakistan since last May observing the withdrawal of Soviet troops, under the provisions of last April's Geneva agreements.

Najibullah repeated attacks on Washington and Islamabad for arming and supporting the guerrillas and called on them to observe international norms and behaviour.

"Now that all Soviet military personnel have left, the Afghan government once again sincerely asks the Pakistani and U.S. governments to use the opportunity

to open a new page in relations between our countries," he said.

Some 260 of the 415 senators and members of the Chamber of Deputies attended the opening ceremony of the parliament's three-month session. The ceremony was held in the Foreign Ministry, apparently for security reasons.

Senate Chairman Mahmud Habbibi told reporters afterwards that others had been unable to attend because of winter transport problems or ill health.

The parliament was chosen in elections last March and April which were boycotted by the Mujahedeen rebels.

Many of its constitutional functions were assumed by the council of ministers (cabinet) under last week's state of emergency.

Air Afrique hijacker's mother appeals to court

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuters

DEIR QANOUN — The mother of a Lebanese jailed for life in Switzerland for hijacking an Air Afrique plane has urged the court to reconsider its verdict.

"I appeal to you to review your decision because my son is not responsible for his actions," said Fatat, mother of Hussein Mohammad Ali Hariri, 23, "who was lured into doing what he did."

A Swiss court jailed Hariri Friday after finding him guilty of hijacking the Air Afrique plane to Geneva in 1987, killing one of its passengers — Frenchman Xavier Beaulieu — and carrying explosives.

Sitting on a sofa inside the family's modest white-washed house in this hilly town, 85 kilometres south of Beirut, his mother wept as she spoke.

"We are going to help him

out of this," she told Reuters. "He was a quiet and stable man and not an aggressive person. People who knew him here told us they did not believe Hussein had carried out this act."

Hariri said the hijack was aimed at securing the release of pro-Iranian guerrillas held in France and West Germany. He admitted killing Beaulieu but refused to consider himself a terrorist.

He commandeered the plane to Geneva during a flight from the Congolese capital Brazzaville to Paris. He had boarded the airliner in the Central African Republic armed with a pistol, 142 rounds of ammunition and explosives hidden in a bag.

The guerrillas Hariri wanted released included Georges Ibrahim Abdullah, serving a life term in Paris, and Mohammad Ali Hamadi, on trial in Frankfurt for the 1985 hijacking of a U.S. airliner.

Ali Abbas, who taught Hariri

for five years at the Qadomus Christian Missionary School, described him as very timid. "Those who were behind him deserve such a sentence and not Hariri," he said.

Veiled in a light blue scarf and accompanied by a younger son, Rabie, Hariri's mother lashed out at the verdict and promised to help her son. "We will not forsake him."

She said she noticed from letters Hariri sent from his Swiss prison through the International Committee of the Red Cross that he was unhappy but he "did not regret the hijacking."

Some villagers in Deir Qanoun, near the southern port city of Tyre, said they regretted the Swiss court's verdict. Others showed little concern about the news.

"The ruling is unfair," commented 24-year-old Faisal Izzeddine, one of Hariri's friends who works at a petrol station.

"Anyone has to understand his background before evaluating his act... Hussein was tortured by the Israelis and some members of a French contingent that was deployed in the village as part of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)," he added.

Another said Hariri was held for 14 months in two Israeli detention camps in Ansar, Lebanon, and Alit inside the Zionist state during its invasion of Lebanon in 1982. He was later released.

"He was savagely beaten, humiliated and tortured by electric shocks at the detention camps," Ahmad Skeiki, a lifetime friend of Hariri, said the political affiliation of the sentenced Lebanese was unclear.

"He underwent training at a communist party camp in 1980. Later, after he left the Alit detention camp, he claimed to support the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God)."

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
16:30 Football
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Local programme
18:25 Arabic series
19:15 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 News in French
19:15 A documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 Varieties programme
20:30 Perfect Strangers
21:10 Birds for all seasons
22:00 News in English
22:30 Murder She Wrote

PRAYER TIMES

04:47 Fajr
06:05 Sunrise
11:49 Dhuhr
15:02 Asr
17:33 Maghrib
18:50 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Santa Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 811295
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628453
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771351
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775281
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 985326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822405
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy and warm with temperatures above the annual average. Winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Hani Haddadin 777751
Dr. Fakher Al Balbisi 625778
Dr. Tayseer Khadi 606857
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 891256
Firdous pharmacy 661912
Firdous pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yaacoub pharmacy 644945
Smeisani pharmacy 637660

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 62590993
Blood Bank 843402
Highway Police 669131
Traffic Police 65939091
Public Security Department 656000 / 683111
Hotel Complaints 608800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 661176
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 12
Overseas Calls 17
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100

HOSPITALS

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-52000
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Alkhil Maternity, J. Amn. 642442/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musharraf Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Islamic, Al-Musharraf 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Abdali 775111/26
Army, Marja 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602040/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 091983323
Zarqa National Hospital 091991071
Ibn Sina Hospital 091986732
Princess Basma Hospital 021275555
Greek Catholic Hospital 021272215
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital 021247100

MARKET PRICES

Upset/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 500 / 450
Banana 350 / 300
Banana (Mukammal) 300 / 250
Broad beans 540 / 480
Cabbage 170 / 120
Carrots 250 / 200
Cauliflower 170 / 120
Cucumbers 550 / 450
Dates 600 / 500
Eggplant 340 / 250
Garlic 240 / 200
Grapefruit 230 / 180
Lemon 380 / 140
Lettuce (per one) 150 / 100
Marrow (large) 400 / 300
Marrow (small) 750 / 650
Orange (Shamouti) 480 / 400
Orange (local) 350 / 300
Onion (dry) 200 / 170
Onion (green) 220 / 180
Pepper (hot) 850 / 800
Pepper (sweet) 450 / 400
Potato 300 / 250
Spinach 110 / 70
Mandarin 520 / 460

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Prince Mohammad visits NMI

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Saturday called at the National Medical Institution (NMI) and met with its Director General Daoud Hanania.

Prince Mohammad heard a briefing on the NMI's activities and future plans and expressed satisfaction with the steps taken by the institution in promoting health services in the Kingdom.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree was issued Saturday accepting the amended rules for the Jordanian lawyers association. The amended law specifies the basis for holding general administration sessions, sessions of the association's council in addition to the organisation of the association's various affairs. (Petra)

CIVIL DEFENCE COURSE: In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the Civil Defence Department of the Balqa Governorate Saturday started a four-week training course during which 22 teachers will be trained in rescue operations, first aid and fire fighting. (Petra)

ENVOY TO MEXICO: The President of Mexico, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, received Friday the credentials of Mr. Hussein Hammami as Jordan's non-resident ambassador to Mexico. Hammami, who is also Jordan's ambassador to the United States, conveyed to the president greetings from His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian government and their keenness on promoting bilateral relations. Dr. Gortari paid tribute to the King's role in promoting the peace process in the Middle East and his relentless efforts to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. (Petra)

ASSAD DUE IN CAIRO: Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad is due in Cairo Sunday to represent Jordan at the 55th session of the Egyptian Academy of Arabic. (Petra)

MALHAS ELECTED MEDICAL COUNCIL CHIEF: The Higher Committee for the Arab Council for Medical Specialisations (ACMS) convening in Damascus Saturday unanimously elected Health Minister Zuhair Malhas as its president for a term of four years. Malhas expressed profound appreciation and pledged to continuously work for the benefit of the ACMS. Malhas arrived earlier in Damascus to represent Jordan at the two-day committee meetings. (Petra)

ATO MEETINGS END: The Arab Tourism Organisation (ATO) general assembly concluded its extraordinary session in Tunis Saturday. Member of the Jordanian delegation to the meetings Abdul Rahim Abu Rabab said that the ATO general assembly accepted the decision adopted by the Arab Social and Economic Council (ASEC) to dissolve the ATO. The dissolution measures and the future of the joint Arab touristic action has been left to be taken by the ASEC during its future meetings, Rabab added. (Petra)

MARITIME TRANSPORT TALKS: Jordan Ports Corporation has received an invitation to participate in the four-day annual meetings of the board of directors of the Arab Academy for Maritime Transport which will be held in Sharjah on March 13. During the meetings, the working plan and the academy's budget for 1989 will be discussed. (Petra)

HASHISH PEDDLER JAILED: The military court has sentenced Mohammad Ali Khazna Sudan to six years imprisonment and the payment of JD 5,000 fine for acquisition of hashish. The military governor endorsed the sentence. (Petra)

JD 1.75M SPENT ON ROAD PROJECTS: Public Works Department in Mafrqa Governorate spent JD 1,750,000 on opening, asphalt, and maintaining roads in 1988. (Petra)

GEOLOGY EXHIBITION AT YARMOUK: A geology exhibition was opened at Yarmouk University Saturday displaying samples of various geological finds in the Kingdom. The five-day exhibition displays various types of rocks, minerals, fossils, glass, marble, rock wool, cement, phosphate, petroleum and oil shale. It also displays models of the earth crust and books on geological subjects. Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan, who opened the exhibition, called for the organisation of this event on an annual basis. Also Saturday, Yarmouk University announced that it will take part in an annual conference on science teaching which will be held in the American city of San Francisco on March 30. (Petra)

AMC MEETING ENDS IN BAGHDAD: The 25th Arab Medical Conference (AMC) has called on the world, as well as the international and humanitarian institutions to help terminate Israel's brutal practices against the Arab citizens in the occupied territories. In a statement issued in Baghdad Saturday, the AMC decided that the Arab Doctors Union hold an extraordinary meeting in Amman entitled the "infidat session" so as to provide financial and moral support for the uprising. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An art exhibition by Paul and Emanuel Gniragoussian at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- * The Arab Contemporary Artists exhibition at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- * An exhibition of models of the Jordanian plastic art, in which 22 Jordanian artists are participating, at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition of Arabic books which includes 15,000 books on science, education and culture at the Karak Community College.
- * An art exhibition by Jordanian artist 'Adnan Yahya at Alia Art Gallery.
- * An exhibition of paintings by French artist Francoise Petrovitch at the French Cultural Centre.
- * An archaeological mobile exhibition on Tel Abu Hamid agricultural settlement at the University of Jordan.
- * The Polish contemporary art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition entitled "The Icebreaker" which includes showing a film about the activities of a Swedish icebreaker and the environment surrounding it, a photo exhibition and a radio programme at the Royal Cultural Centre — 7:00 p.m.
- * An exhibition on geology and development plans in Jordan which includes samples of rocks, minerals, fossils and raw material manufactured in Jordan, at the Yarmouk University.
- * An art exhibition by Mohammad Bolis and Munira Al Tunisiyya at Al Qadisiyya College.

SYMPOSIUM

- * A symposium on environmental pollution at the Faculty of Engineering Auditorium, the University of Jordan — 9:00 a.m. — 1 p.m.

POETRY

- * Arab poetry reading season at the Royal Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

- * A lecture entitled "Tragic Love in Shakespeare" by Dr. Mohammad Asfour at the British Council — 6:00 p.m.

FILMS

- * Documentary films on Germany at the Yarmouk University — 5:00 p.m.
- * A feature film entitled Kramer vs. Kramer at the American Centre — 5:00 p.m.

Regent cables best wishes on Kuwait's national day

Ella Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Kuwait Saturday marked its national day and its 28th independence anniversary with celebrations that involved all public organisations and private institutions.

The celebrations this year bore special significance coming in the wake of the eight year Gulf conflict between Iran and Iraq. They also followed meetings held in Kuwait by a six member Arab League panel to find a peaceful formula to end the civil war in Lebanon.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, sent cables of good wishes on the occasion to the Kuwaiti Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah. He wished them continued health and happiness and the Kuwaiti

people further progress and prosperity.

Kuwait's ambassador to Jordan, Suleiman Salem Al Fassam, said in a statement published in the local press that since independence from Britain in 1961, Kuwait has maintained very strong relations with Jordan based on brotherly cooperation and mutual confidence, and has concluded numerous agreements with the Kingdom, organising cooperation in trade, economic, cultural and educational fields. Kuwait, the ambassador said, is now planning to promote such cooperation to include tourism.

Kuwait has been a staunch supporter of the Palestinian people and their rights in their homeland. It has been backing all international efforts to bring about justice to the oppressed Palestinian people, extending all possible moral and financial sup-

port for them, the ambassador added.

Fassam cited a major speech delivered at the United Nations General Assembly last September by the Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber in which he paid tribute to the on-going Palestinian uprising, condemned Israel's acts of terrorism and demanded that the international community shoulder its responsibility towards the Palestinian people.

The ambassador said on this occasion Kuwait "salutes the Palestinian people, their steadfastness and their continued endeavour to regain their rights, and it supports their struggle for freedom."

The ambassador Saturday hosted a reception at the Kuwaiti embassy in Amman attended by senior government officials, prominent figures and members of the diplomatic community in the Kingdom.

Cultural season begins today

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman will present month-long cultural activities starting from Sunday including poetry reading and lectures by Jordanian intellectuals and poets.

A spokesman for the centre said that the sessions will be held each Sunday and Wednesday of each week during which 32 Jordanian poets and 12 literary critics will speak on subjects such as

literature and poetry.

The month-long cultural season is organised by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the spokesman said.

A ministry official said that the poetry reading event will be the first ever to be organised by the ministry in the country and marks the start of the cultural season in Jordan during 1989.

The Ministry of Culture and

National Heritage last year organised plastic arts seasons but it was not able to arrange for a literary season, according to Minister of Culture Mohammad Hammouri.

He said the ministry was planning a short season to follow the poetry reading while at the same time it would go ahead with other literary and plastic arts programmes.

5th Arab energy conference to deal with issues of concern in next decade

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The fifth Arab energy conference, which is to be held in Amman in 1992, will address the main issues of concern to the Arab region in the coming decade, according to Abdul Aziz Al Wattari, acting secretary general of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC).

Attari said a special steering committee last week discussed the main points of the coming conference agenda with particu-

lar attention on oil and natural gas, which constitute the main source of income for the Arab World.

According to Attari the committee groups representatives of the OAPEC, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Iraqi Minister of Oil and the Jordanian Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources.

The committee, he added, has defined the main issues on energy in the Arab World and the im-

portance of the Jordanian-Egyptian project to link their national grids and contribute to cooperation between the eastern and western flanks of the Arab World in energy related fields.

The committee he added has conducted studies on the transportation and distribution of natural gas within the Arab World, and future prospects in the light of the creation of the three economic groups in the Arab World.

Glass factory expects to make JD 1.5 million profit in 1989

AMMAN (J.T.) — The glass factory near Ma'an, in southern Jordan, is expected to yield a profit of JD 1.5 million in 1989, following losses due to technical reasons over the past four years, according to the Jordan Glass Industries Managing Director Farhi Obaid.

The company lost JD 2.5 million in 1985, JD 1.5 million in 1986 and JD 625,000 in 1987, but it made a profit of JD 400,000 in 1988, Obaid said in a statement to Al Dustour Arabic daily Saturday.

He said the profits are largely made as a result of marketing tinted glass in Arab countries, mainly to Egypt.

The company last year exported 12,758 tonnes of glass, mostly tinted, to Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Kuwait and Morocco in addition to the local markets, Obaid said.

This year the company received an order from the Tunisian government for six tonnes of tinted glass, Obaid said.

In his statement, Obaid blamed the losses over the past four years on insufficient experience on the part of the local technicians and technical failures. He said following a dispute over production and pay, a group of Belgian specialists employed to operate the factory

left the country, leaving the Jordanians to handle the production and maintenance operations, "a task that proved too difficult to shoulder."

In the past year, the company

made profits because it re-employed specialists who were able to raise the production capacity from 15 to 33 tonnes in the first month of operations alone, Obaid pointed out.

King: Solution lies in 242

Continued from page 1

long years of experience, the King said.

The King said there was no need for the U.S. to send an envoy to the Middle East since the best means to advance the peace process was to hold contacts with the parties, continuing the American dialogue with the PLO and holding consultations with the five permanent members of the Security Council to pave the way for an international peace conference.

The King expressed hope that the year 1989 would witness moves leading to negotiations on implementing Resolution 242, solving the Palestinian problem and achieving comprehensive peace in the region.

He said the Soviet Union must participate in the peace process since it is a superpower with interests in the region and in peace and stability not only in the Middle East but also the entire

world.

The King said Jordan had no intention to seek American weapons in light of the positions adopted by the U.S. Congress.

Bush urges prudence

President Bush said meanwhile that recent developments posed new opportunities for peace in the Middle East but urged prudence in undertaking new initiatives.

Speaking at a news conference after meetings in Tokyo with King Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli President Chaim Herzog, Bush said he discussed new opportunities for American peace efforts in the region.

"I think everybody understands that before we just go rushing out to do something for the sake of doing something that we take a step that is prudent," he said.

Education in Jordan — a Princess' views

(Continued from page 1)

is it so, but perhaps officials do not like change because it could undermine their positions."

The Princess studied at the CMS school in Amman and later in schools in England before returning to the University of Jordan where she studied English literature between 1973 and 1977.

Another problem plaguing the education system in Jordan is the discrepancy between the subjects taught at schools and universities and the actual needs of the society, she says.

"There is no balance between supply and demand in the labour market. We need a system of advising students on all levels on the needs of the society so that they are in touch with their environment."

The information media take part of the blame, Princess Alia said. "There are major gaps that could be covered by the media. There is so much room for improvement and it is

the government's duty to bridge these gaps."

Constructive criticism

"Obviously," Princess Alia said, no government is faultless. "But when it comes to the information policy, you can be critical in a constructive way just as you can criticise in a destructive way. Things are not either black or white. Some policies taken by the government may not look bad if they were explained properly. Unfortunately, some reform measures may not be adopted often for religious reasons or for some unknown excuses."

Princess Alia said that Crown Prince Hassan was acting as a link between the reformers and the government by initiating ideas for dialogue on the subject of education and development.

One of the obstacles facing the effort to reform the education system, Princess Alia says, is the lack of tolerance on the

part of government officials. She said some of the measures taken by the government do not achieve their designed goals because they were not properly explained to the people.

"It is very important to explain the background of measures to people to make them more acceptable," she said. "I do not see why not. The idea that we know more than you do so leave it to us, is wrong. You can explain to people because people must know. If you make a mistake, you would be giving yourself a chance to rectify it. But if no one talks, how are you going to know?"

The drive towards reform of education will undoubtedly continue with members of the Royal Family acting as a catalyst for change. Princess Alia agrees that unlike the British, Jordanians expect the Royal Family to play a direct role shaping policies and initiating change. "It is born out of tradition and culture."

Air travel may be considered domestic flights

Iraq, North Yemen and Jordan seek to unify civil aviation authorities

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Heads of civil aviation authorities and national airlines in Iraq, North Yemen and Jordan held a meeting in Amman Saturday and recommended the establishment of a unified civil aviation council for the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) member states and considering air travel between them as part of domestic flights in the same country.

Ghandour said that the four countries will launch close cooperation in technical and maintenance fields, providing training to personnel employed in civil aviation and unify their commercial operations.

He said unification among the four national airlines will enhance the group's bargaining position with other airlines.

Following the meeting, which was held at the RJ headquarters in Amman, it was announced that RJ and Egypt Air will hold a separate meeting in Cairo in the coming week, to discuss the prospect of establishing a joint investment fund to promote travel and tourism between the two countries in the coming summer. Last year tourism between the two countries declined by eight per cent over the figures given in 1987.

The ACC charter, signed in Baghdad by the heads of state of the four Arab countries opened the way for cooperation in all economic fields and was described as one major step towards achieving unity in the Arab World.

The meeting, which was chaired by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ali Ghandour, grouped Mohammad Haimi, chairman of Yemenia (the North Yemeni national airline), Nouredin Al Safi, chairman of Iraqi Airways and Mahmoud Jamal Balqez, director general of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) in Amman.

The talks centred on means of promoting coordination among Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen and Jordan, which are grouped in the ACC formed on Feb. 16 in Baghdad, according to Ghandour.

He said, in a statement that the meeting discussed unification of air space in the four countries, organising air transport and

flights carried out by the national airlines, and facilitating such operations.

Ghandour said that the meeting approved recommendations which will be relayed to Egypt and to an enlarged meeting by the civil aviation authorities in the four countries to be held in Cairo on March 26.

He said the meeting called for the establishment of a unified civil aviation council grouping the four national airlines with their chairmen, regarding the airspace in the four countries as one, streamlining the unifying regulations concerning civil aviation in these countries, and above all, considering flights among the four countries as domestic trips, taking place within one country.

Government approves nomination of 2 envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian government has approved Romania's nomination of Mr. Dimitri Stanisco as its ambassador to Jordan to succeed Mr. Todor Coman who had been ambassador here since 1987. The government also approved of the nomination of Mr. Robert Bowker as Australia's ambassador to Jordan replacing Terence Goggin

whose tour of duty ended last year.

A statement from the prime minister's office said that the government also approved of the formation of a special committee to travel to Bahrain where it will take charge of a new building that will house the Jordanian embassy in Manama.

The committee groups repre-

sentatives of the ministries of foreign affairs, public works and housing.

According to the statement the Tunisian minister of tourism will pay a four-day visit to Jordan on March 13.

He will hold talks with Jordanian officials on promoting cooperation between the two countries in tourism.

Seminar to discuss community development

AMMAN (Petra) — The Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) will open a three-day seminar on local community development Monday in cooperation with the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development.

A QAF statement Saturday said that the seminar which will be opened here by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, the fund's president, will address questions related to practical steps that should be taken in

developing local communities in Jordan with the help of local voluntary, philanthropic, private and public organisations in the Kingdom.

Representatives of ministries of Health, Education, Agriculture, Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, Youth, Information, Interior, Planning, and Social Development, as well as the Noor Al Hussein Foundation and Jordanian universities, in addition to the United Nations

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) will take part in the coming seminar, according to the statement.

It said that the participants will discuss six working papers on local community development submitted by delegates representing the Ministry of Planning, the Princess Rahmah Community Development Centre and women's organisations.

Jordan, Egypt sign sports agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt Saturday signed an agreement, paving the way for cooperation in the fields of sports and youth affairs until the year 1991.

Under the agreement the two sides will organise meetings between sports, youth and artistic groups from both countries, to exchange visits by cultural and youth teams as well as officials, organise scout camps and to invite groups of youth aged 12 to 18 from both countries to take part in youth and sports programmes in Jordan and Egypt.

The two sides agreed to encourage their various clubs and sports federations to organise competitions and matches and to coordinate work between the Jordanian and Egyptian Olympic committees.

Egypt agreed to provide training to sports officials from Jordan and its higher institutions and will exchange with Jordan visits by researchers in youth, child and sports fields and both countries will embark on an exchange programme of documents, documentary films and publications pertaining to sports and youth activities.

Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat and the chairman of the Higher Council of Sports and Youth in Egypt, Dr. Abdul Ahad Jamaluddin, signed the agreement at a ceremony held at the Al Hussein Youth City.

The two officials delivered speeches in which they said that the agreement was concluded in the spirit of the Arab Cooperation Council which involves Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen and aims to enhance inter-Arab cooperation.

Also Thursday, Jamaluddin and Khleifat called at the University of Jordan and met with its President Abdul Salam Al Majali who briefed them on the development of the university and its various sports and cultural programmes. Majali later accompanied the two officials on a tour of the premises.

Environmental pollution seminar opens today

AMMAN — Jordao Sunday will host for the first time a symposium on environmental pollution at the University of Jordan under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

The symposium is aimed at spreading awareness among specialists and members of the public on the dangers of pollution, ways for handling such a danger and protecting the environment.

Taking part in the symposium are delegates from West Ger-

many, the University of Jordan, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

On the first day of the seminar the participants will hear lectures on problems of the global environmental chemical pollution, the concept of a national research centre for environmental studies in Jordan; carcinogenic substances, their formation and danger, as well as the harmful substance in our food; pesticides and food additives.



We really mean no smoking

On March 1, 1989 all employees of the Amman Marriott Hotel who smoke will voluntarily give up smoking for the day and donate the value of JD 101,500 (145 smokers by average retail price of JD 0.700 per pack) to the National Jordanian Anti-Smoking Society. The staff have all volunteered to join in one No Smoking Day as part of a continuing effort to support the health consciousness and awareness programmes sponsored by the government. In the picture, smokers from various departments are seen crushing cigarette packs.

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation, established 1975.

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Protecting the environment

THERE is no escape, at this point in time or ever, from the fact that there could be no separation between usage of energy and environmental protection. This message was made more than clear in the keynote address delivered by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the Middle East energy forum which opened in Amman Thursday. Summing up the main features of the international energy situation in light of the increasing awareness of the dangers of environmental pollution resulting from improper use of energy, the Crown Prince underlined the fact that for many countries issues related to environment are priorities while charting the strategy of energy usage.

What the world needs today is a comprehensive international energy policy combining every aspect of energy use and enshrining the relationship between all forms of energy sources: be it oil, gas, coal, nuclear, solar, wind or biomass — but adequately addressing the issue of making our environment safer.

At the same time, it is also true that a "we-couldn't-care-less-since-we-have-other-priorities" feeling prevails in many Third World countries, perhaps rightly so, simply because it will be too much to expect the developing countries to think about the after-effects of energy use when they have to worry about the means to pay for their energy imports. But the call made by the Crown Prince on Thursday is particularly significant since it was made in the Middle East — the heartland of the world's oil. It was the most timely reminder that efforts to advance the quest for reliable, long-term alternate sources of energy have to be stepped up if we were to address both issues — concerns that oil reserves cannot last for ever and fears that fossil fuel burning poses the major threat to the environment — in one go with the added incentive that a successful endeavour will also alleviate many countries' energy import bills. At the same time, the perspective in which major oil-producers study the environmental question could also be the determining factor in charting any course towards any successful treatment of global energy-related environmental concerns.

It is no easy task that lies ahead; but the symposium that Jordan plans to host later this year in cooperation with Swedish energy institutions and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development should go a long way in formulating the first concrete step in the endeavour, particularly that Sweden represents a country with advanced technology coupled with a determined drive to protect the environment, and the Arab Fund represents a large segment of the oil-rich but technology-deprived part of the world.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily newspaper Saturday discussed His Majesty King Hussein's meeting in Tokyo with the U.N. secretary general during which both sides emphasised the need for a solution for the Middle East question. Javier Perez de Cuellar said that the problem should not be left unresolved and that urgent actions should be carried out to open the way for an international conference where all parties in the conflict can meet and find an acceptable formula to establish peace and security in the region, the paper noted. It said that this meeting underlines the fact that the international community represented by de Cuellar is determined to seek all means leading to security and peace in this important part of the world. The U.N. secretary general's statement means also that there is no more room for further procrastination in finding a just solution for the Palestine problem, and that time should be exploited to bring an end to the sufferings of the oppressed people of Palestine, the paper noted. But, it added, this international concern over the Palestine problem should unify the Arab countries' efforts which can materialise at a summit meeting that in turn can decide on all future actions.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily is of the view that the pressure on the Jordanian dinar over the past months was partly due to the fact that a 10-year period of Arab countries' financial assistance to Jordan has come to an end. Fahed Al Fanek says that this pressure had led to the emergence of certain economic, social and political situations in Jordan. He wonders if the Arab countries have decided to renew financial assistance to Jordan in implementation of the Baghdad summit conference in 1979, and demands that the public should know the answer and should also know the volume of any future financial assistance to the Kingdom since this has a great impact on the economic situation as a whole. Knowing that financial help is coming would be a very favourable development, and would have very beneficial effect on the national economy, says Fanek. Although the 1989 fiscal budget in Jordan has an allocation of JD 225 million as coming in the form of Arab and foreign assistance to this country, this is not a clear indication about the situation and does not reveal whether the Arab states are willing to honour further financial commitments, the writer adds. Fanek notes that financial assistance is a political rather than financial matter, and is meant to assist the Kingdom to maintain its steadfastness in the face of any danger.

Al Dustour daily referred to the King's series of meetings with the heads of state in Tokyo where they gathered to attend the funeral of the late Emperor Hirohito. The paper said that the King has spared no moment in Tokyo without seeking backing from various leaders for Jordan's quest for peace. A promise to the King by U.S. President George Bush to give priority to the Middle East problem and a similar one by the U.N. secretary general to help the parties reach a settlement, are both a welcome development, the paper noted. Indeed, we view the King's meetings with world leaders as another constructive contribution towards reaching a lasting settlement in the Middle East, the paper said. It added the Arabs ought to maintain the momentum and revive various countries' concern over the future of this part of the world.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Politicians offer self defeating solutions

IN a friendly argument with a public figure over public interest, I discovered that our politicians need some orientation in their economic way of thinking. I don't want them to be converted into economists, as economists are not in short supply. I only hope to stop politicians from pressing demands that, in real life, will definitely result in exactly the opposite of the declared objectives. Understandably, my friend the politician stands strongly on the side of the people. He thinks that the relation between the people and the Treasury is of conflicting nature. He demands a fair system of priorities, for instance popular needs such as the needs of students abroad or the importation of basic commodities should get dollars at a reduced price. He advocates the priority of financing in favour of production, health, and housing, through giving these activities a preferential interest rate. He calls for assisting the poorer groups of the population by the exemption of food stuffs from customs duties (which is the case anyway). He wants to give priority to imports from Arab countries and that these imports be given exemption from imports duties on mutual basis.

All these objectives and priorities are right, fair and justified. They do not raise much controversy between politicians and economists. However, the methods suggested by the politicians will no doubt result in exactly the opposite. Apparently some politicians did not master the economic way of thinking, and

would hurt their people despite all their good intentions. The interest of the Treasury is compatible with the enlightened interest of the people. The shortfall in the treasury revenues was responsible for the external indebtedness crisis, the shortage in foreign currencies, the depreciation of the dinar, the rise in prices, and all the other consequences of the current economic crisis. How can one try to solve the economic crisis by further depriving the Treasury from its revenue sources? The financial deficit will lead to a worsening crisis, more unemployment, and less public services to the people in the form of education, health, security and the halt of development effort and capital expenditure. If we have two prices for the dollar, a high one for luxurious purposes and a low one for the necessities, what will happen? The answer is that banks will have an incentive to give the priority to financing luxurious needs, because the management of any reasonable bank will make decisions to maximise the bank's profits. Why then should we put the self interest of the bank in contradiction with the interest of the people, and consequently push all banks to refrain from selling the dollars to the urgent and badly needed necessities. If the dollar has to be sold to certain groups at a lower price we shall not find enough banks to function on charity basis while still claim to be commercial banks. If we make loans at a cheaper price to certain sectors of the economy like industry and agriculture, the banks will use all

excuses not to extend credit to these very activities until they have satisfied all the needs of the other groups. We actually get negative results if the demands of those politicians were met. If we exempt food and other basic commodities from import taxes, as we are doing now, and impose higher customs on the luxurious commodities, investors will act logically by refraining from food production, which is not protected from foreign competition, and concentrate on the production of luxurious goods, and enjoy the high customs protection. In other words we distort our economy and misguide it in the wrong direction. Mutual exemption of tax duty on imports among Arab countries is the reason behind the shrinking of inter-Arab trade to only 6 per cent of the Arab international trade, because governments were creating administrative barriers to prevent Arab imports and avoid loss of taxes on imports. The above examples are not demands only. Part of them are already implemented and gave the negative results indicated beside each of them. My problem with politicians, and some journalists, is not disagreement over priorities and objectives, but on how we can achieve them. Our politicians and journalists need some economic education to understand that their methods lead us nowhere, and will not realise their desired targets. An Arab proverb says: A wise enemy is far better than a foolish friend.

Wounds that won't heal

By Joel Brinkley

BETHLEHEM, Israeli-Occupied West Bank — Huddled in a wheelchair against a warm radiator, lifeless legs tangled beneath her, Zuhriyah Naji, 19, thought aloud about the life that lay ahead, and her despondency bordered on despair. "I can't do anything for myself," she murmured. "I have to get all kinds of help. My family would like to take care of me, but I need so much attention I don't know how they can. I don't know what I'll do."

An Israeli soldier shot Miss Naji on June 17 as she reached to pick up a rock that she intended to hurl at troops standing only 20 yards (18 metres) away. The bullet passed through her upper chest, clipping her spine as it exited her back.

She and 24 other people were wounded that day during a violent demonstration in her West Bank village, Beit Furik, near Nablus. She is one of more than 4,000 Palestinians wounded by Israeli gunfire, in addition to more than 350 killed, since the Palestinian uprising began almost 15 months ago.

Most of the wounded are treated without charge by hospitals in the West Bank or Gaza Strip and recover, sooner or later. But then there are people like Miss Naji, hundreds of them, although no one has kept track. She is permanently paralysed from the waist down.

As with the others, her hospital bills were paid. Now she is receiving free rehabilitative services from the Bethlehem Arab Socie-

ty for the Physically Handicapped, a charitable organisation where she has lived these last months along with more than a dozen others disabled in the uprising. But soon she will have to leave, to make room for new patients.

The Bethlehem society is one of a handful of institutions for the physically handicapped in the occupied territories. Even before the uprising began, it and the others were strained beyond capacity just dealing with society's usual paralytics — victims of auto wrecks or work accidents who usually have insurance that helps them after they are sent home.

But then the violence started producing a flood of paraplegic and quadriplegic shooting victims — most of them young, poor and uninsured. As a result, "the community asked us" to set aside a ward for uprising casualties, said Edmund Shehadeh, the society's managing director. So his workers removed 35 cribs from a children's ward and put in 15 beds instead. They are full almost all of the time.

At the society, the shooting victims receive physical and psychological therapy, so they can adjust their handicaps. But then they are discharged, dozens of them over the last 15 months, with no place to go, no one to handle their long-term care.

"This is a big problem," said the society's resident physician. He asked that his name not be published because, as a French government employee fulfilling his military service by working here for a year, he is not permitted to speak out.



"We can provide the initial care here," the doctor said, "but others have to give money for the ramps, wheelchairs, special bathrooms." Miss Naji will need these things in her home — not to mention the lifetime of personal and medical assistance to dress, bathe, eat, change her catheter. Hospital administrators said they were able to pay for the medical care of the people who were wounded, but not disabled.

With money they got from "donations from abroad." The widespread assumption is that much of that money comes from the Palestine Liberation Organisation. But neither the PLO nor anyone else in the occupied territories or abroad is donating money for the problems of the disabled. As a result, "we know there must be many, many paraplegics at home alone, doing nothing," the doctor said. Shehadeh, the director, said:

"The least we can try to do is secure some kind of decent life for these people. It costs \$5,000 just to build in a bathroom they can use. There ought to be a programme sponsored by the government. The Israeli military government in the West Bank offers nothing for people like Miss Naji. But most Palestinians are not inclined to ask anything of the occupiers. Dr. Yitzhak Sever, the military

government's chief medical officer for the West Bank, said he had never heard of a request for financial assistance to disabled shooting victims. Should a request come in, he added, Israel would probably offer some money — if the victim held Israeli government insurance, as do only about 20 per cent of the West Bank's residents, most of them teachers and government employees — The New York Times.

Nationalistic South Korea no longer sees U.S. as saviour

By Roger Crabb
Reuter

SEOUL — There will be scant cause for celebration when President Bush meets South Korean leaders during his flying visit to Seoul Monday.

The Korean-American relationship has turned sour.

It is no longer polite in Seoul to heap public praise on the two countries' strategic anti-Communist alliance, which has held firm for 40 years. Voices are raised to argue that it is all an outdated relic of the cold war, an obstacle to Korean reunification and should be scrapped.

In recent months anti-U.S. sentiment, once the exclusive preserve of radical students and dissidents, has spread across the country like a brush fire. Even those who resist this trend agree the relationship, forged in the chaos of the 1950-53 Korean war when thousands of Americans died to beat back the Communist invasion, can never be the same again.

The phenomenon has many complex causes — political emascipation, growing nationalism, resentment of trade pressures, a yearning for Korean reunification.

Whatever the rationale, the changed mood was starkly illustrated by a Seoul crowd cheering Soviet basketballers in their Olympic clash with the U.S. team, or hundreds of American airmen confined to base because of the danger of clashes in the town outside.

Almost daily demonstrations on campus or outside American facilities make it clear that, for many South Koreans, the 43,000 U.S. servicemen stationed in the country are not welcome. People

yelling "Yankee go home" have attacked army married quarters with petrol bombs.

That radical demand, for the troops to be withdrawn, echoes North Korean propaganda and is not voiced by the average South Korean in the street.

Polls show that most apparently believe a U.S. military presence is still necessary to deter a Communist invasion, though there is increasingly open discussion of American motives in keeping forces on the peninsula.

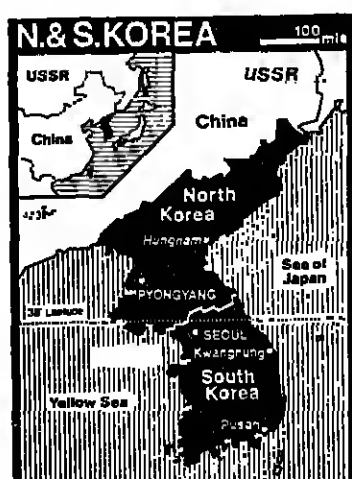
More and more commentators argue the view that Washington is here not primarily to protect South Korea against aggression but essentially for its own reasons of global strategy that could run counter to Korean interests. They ask out loud whether, deep down, Washington really wants Korea reunited.

With newspapers freed in the past year from the draconian controls imposed under former strongman President Chun Doo Hwan, writers daily question the traditional view of a disinterested United States always standing for freedom and democracy in South Korea.

Revisionist commentators do not stop at accusing Washington of propping up former dictatorial regimes, they also maintain the United States for geopolitical gain masterminded the division of the peninsula in 1945 into north and anti-Communist south.

One columnist recently cited, as proof of American perfidy, an 1894 pact by which Washington acknowledged Japan's overlordship in Korea in exchange for a free hand in the Philippines.

While all these factors have contributed to the present suspicious mood in Seoul-Washington relations, would find hard to approve.



dent Roh Tae-Woo will get bogged down in discussions on 19th century gunboat diplomacy. Questions they are certain to tackle during their single meeting at the blue house executive mansion are:

— Security on the peninsula. Both sides are on record as saying U.S. troops should stay in Korea until there is no longer a perceived invasion threat from the north.

— Seoul's "nordpolitik" efforts to improve relations with North Korea and its Communist allies. South Koreans suspect Washington is concerned at the speed and scope of their diplomatic and trade breakthroughs.

— The vexed question of trade. The trade issue has been a major irritant in U.S.-South Korean relations for three years, ever since Seoul recorded its first big payments surplus in 1986.

Pressure from Washington has forced revaluation of the won against the dollar of more than 25 per cent and the reluctant opening of several key domestic markets, yet still the trade gap yawns.

Under the Bush administration, U.S. officials look set to continue threatening trade sanctions in hopes of further concessions that Roh, for domestic political reasons, would find hard to approve.

Four decades without war

By Michael Sturmer

EUROPE might be still divided, but last year, almost unnoticed, it passed a milestone: it has now enjoyed a longer period of "non-war" than at any time in the many centuries of its history.

The 43 years of the Peace of Frankfurt, lasting from 1871 to the outbreak of the World War I, were the historically longest period of peace in the Old World.

Shaped by belief in progress and the absolutist state, trust in stability and the accumulation of conflicts, these years ended in what General de Gaulle called the Thirty Years' War of our century in 1944.

The Middle Ages and the early modern age experienced more years of war than years of peace. It was often difficult to distinguish between civil war and war. Due to hibernation immobilisation war was frequently a seasonal affair.

Thomas Hobbes' fear of life in a natural state — "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short" — and his advocacy of the absolutist state as a guarantor of peace and saviour against total war heralded change in the bloody middle of the 17th century.

The state in the 18th century prohibited domestic warfare and thus legitimated its power base. This was a prerequisite for engaging in externally orientated wars with even greater force.

All military campaigns, however, were restricted by the scarcity of resources and the price of the soldiers.

Whoever won a victory without a battle on the merit of manoeuvring skills was the best general.

Irrespective of what civilisation and human rights may owe to the French Revolution war owes its most: from universal conscription to the battle of annihilation, from the levee en masse to the "absolute war," which Carl von Clausewitz (Vom Kriege, 1831) counselled so eloquently but to no avail.

Since then railway and telegraph, machine-gun and tank, submarine and aircraft have increased the facilities of destruction.

At the beginning of the World War II cavalry sabres were still being sharpened; at the end of the war the plutonium bomb exploded over Nagasaki.

Among the reasons for long-lasting peace the most effective is the one which requires the greatest consideration: the existence of nuclear weapons.

The bomb achieved what neither Christianity nor Enlightenment, neither hegemony nor equilibrium, neither the bourgeois state nor Socialism was able to bring about: the deterrence of war.

Raymond Aron described the mutual blockade of the balance of nuclear power in which the world is entrapped yet safeguarded using the words "War improbable, peace impossible."

The fact that beyond this nuclear "snare" 25 wars are being waged is food for thought.

Moral protest against nuclear weapons sounds hollow when measured in terms of the experience before they came along and during their existence.

The existence of nuclear weapons was accompanied by the Pax Americana, whose protective role was most obvious in Germany and was most readily accepted here due to the defeat of 1945 and the Stalinist threat.

It was the basis of moral rehabilitation, economic prosperity and political advancement.

Without America it would hardly been possible to shield Europe from the ghosts of its past and give a roof to European integration.

And the throes of the old colonial empires would have been much more painful and dangerous.

The third element of peace since 1945 consists of the exhaustion of the European absolutist state and the realisation that it contributed most to the greatest catastrophe of our century which

began in 1914. The idea of a larger and federal Europe developed in the European resistance movements, including the German one. This idea was not supposed to stop at the River Elbe.

And the experience of economists showed that warring potentials must be welded together to serve the interests of peace.

It should not be forgotten today that a united Europe was the end, economic integration merely a means.

So do we simply owe peace to the fact that the world has become too fragile for war?

This is the morally unsatisfactory aspect of the new state of peace. It is not the result of a love of mankind or the preaching of penance and a mending of our ways, but of the fact that, for the first time in its history, the existence of mankind was thrown into the balance of reason.

Is a different and more reliable basis for peace conceivable and feasible?

And how can permanency be given to the state of nuclear peace?

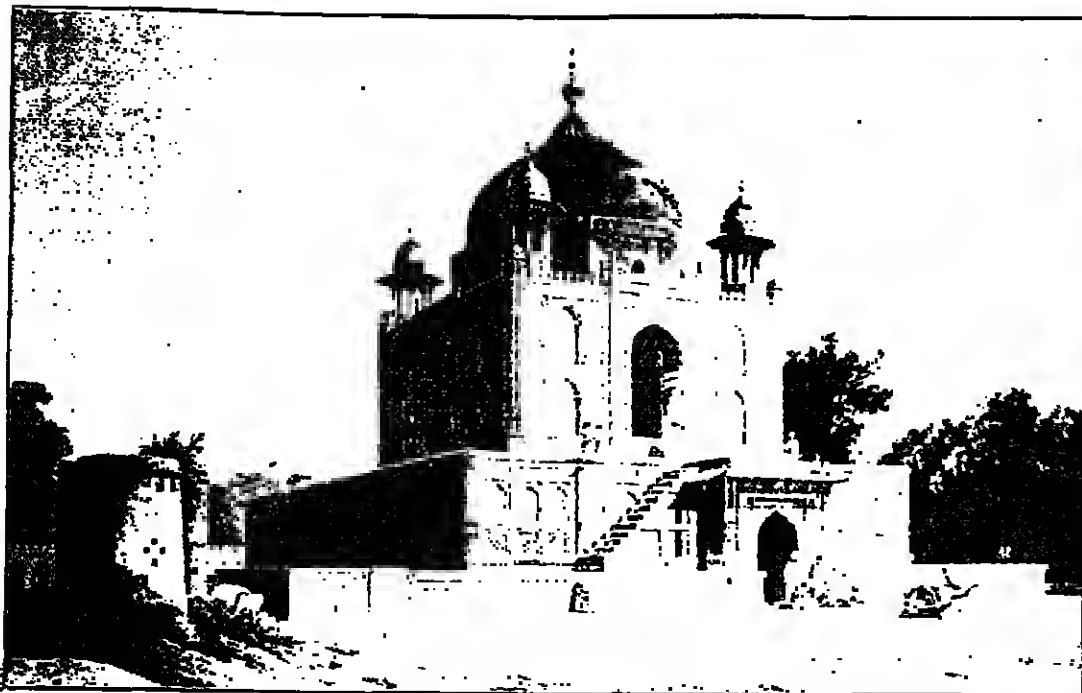
To call for the abolition of nuclear weapons without the loss of peace requires tremendous belief in the goodness of mankind and shows an unfamiliarity with the nuclear-free history of the world, from Cain and Abel to the year 1945.

Arms control remains a tight-rope walk between a policy of maintaining equilibrium and continuing strategy by other means.

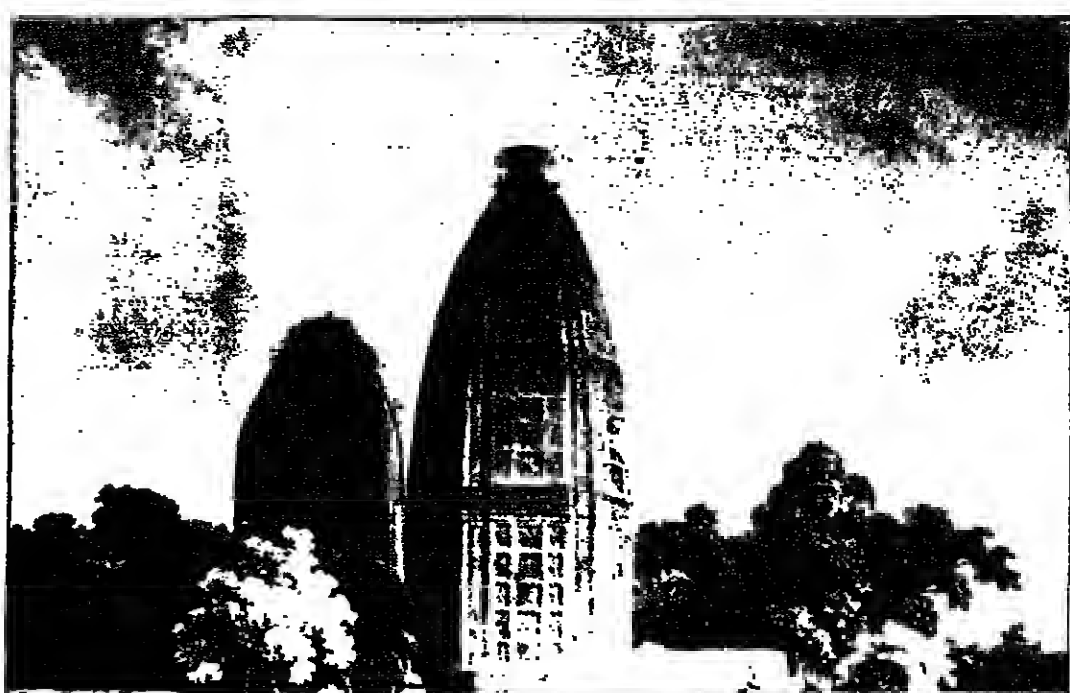
This is an inadequate basis for an international order. As nuclear weapons can no longer be eliminated what is needed is a networking of the dangers and interests of highly industrialised societies in East and West.

The corresponding confidence building measures must be developed on a large scale.

The question can then remain open whether the type of peace which has existed since 1945 is based on nuclear foundations or not — Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland.



The mausoleum of Sultan Purvez near Allahabad, north India, which is part of the hand-colored aquatint collection entitled (Oriental Scenery 1795-1808).



Chele Sotoun in Allahabad, north India, on the river Jamna.

Abuses in a welfare state

By Cecilia Lonnell
The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM — Government officials want to find out whether Swedes are really becoming ill more often or abusing sick-leave benefits in one of the world's most liberal welfare systems, authorities say.

A recent study found that the average Swedish employee misses nearly a month of work each year because of illness, and one government official concedes there is a link between sick leave and fraud.

"There must be some control" to prevent abuses, said Olle Nyström, a department chief at the National Accounting Board.

Officials say they plan to try new ways of checking for abuses, such as workers calling in sick when they're not or even collecting government sick-pay benefits while also going to work and getting paid.

Official statistics show that sick-pay costs increased by more than 50 per cent over the past three years, from \$3.1 billion in 1986 to \$4.9 billion in 1988.

Honour system

In Sweden, sick-pay benefits traditionally have been paid on the honour system. All workers are entitled to 90 per cent of their pay, starting from the first day they are home sick.

The government administers illness benefits and makes payments to workers, but most of the money comes from taxes paid by employers.

When a worker is ill, that person reports the sickness and the number of days missed from work to the local social insurance office. A doctor's certificate is required only if the employee misses a week or more of work.

A study by the Swedish employer's association, released last summer, said the average Swedish worker in industry missed 27 days a year for illness in 1987, compared with 18 days in West Germany, 16 in France and 11 in Britain.

Nyström, of the national accounting board, said "there is surely a link" between the large amount of sick leave taken by Swedish workers and the lack of checks for fraud.

A public opinion poll, published Feb. 5, found that 86 per cent of the 1,000 Swedes interviewed by telephone suspected their colleagues of cheating on welfare benefits. The poll was conducted by the Swedish Institute of Public Opinion Research for Sweden's channel 2 news programme, Rapport. No margin of error was reported for the poll.

20% of GNP

The costs of sick leave, pensions and various other social benefits are expected to amount this year to 20 per cent of Sweden's Gross National Product (GNP), which is predicted to be \$174 billion.

Illness benefits last year amounted to \$5 billion, \$120 million more than Sweden spent on defence.

One form of abuse is simply for an employee to call in sick when he's not. But Swedish authorities say it's even more common for a worker to report that he's sick, file for government sick pay and then go to work anyway, collecting a normal paycheck from his employer in addition to the illness benefits.

Officials say it's difficult to check for such abuse.

"If I knock on the door and nobody opens, what is my proof (the worker isn't home sick)?" Yvonne Strömberg, a local official told Swedish television.

The national accounting board described another scam in a report late last year. It said some people collect payments from the government for sick leave, parental leave and student grants — all for the same period of time.

Double pay

To counter such double-pay abuse, Strömberg suggested the government make more telephone checks with employers instead of home visits by inspectors.

Karl Gustaf Scherer, director of the National Social Insurance Board, said in a television interview the organisation was increasing its efforts to detect welfare abuses.

In Bandhagen, south of Stockholm, the local social insurance office started a three-week campaign to check all claims on certain days.

Since Sweden's social benefits are administered locally, there is no official overall picture of cheating nationwide.

A random check made in January by insurance offices in the west coast town of Halmstad showed 20 per cent of all sick claims were false, while in neighbouring Varberg 15 per cent of the illness claims were fraudulent, reported the Svenska Dagbladet newspaper.

But a different study late last year said a three-day check of sick-pay claims in the northern province of Jämtland showed all 180 cases were valid, reported the Dagens Nyheter daily newspaper.

To counter abuses, authorities say one option under study is to let employers take over sick payments for absences of up to two weeks, saving the government money and paperwork. The company would then file for a refund of illness benefits it had paid from the government.

Unions

But unions have opposed that plan.

Margareta Svensson, a spokeswoman for the blue-collar General Confederation of Unions, said it would let companies pressure employees against calling in sick when they are legitimately ill.

"There would be people who did not dare to be (off) ill if their employer controlled" sick payments, she said.

The national accounting board's report said illness claims, valid or not, varied widely by location. The 10 districts with the highest absenteeism were low-income suburbs of Sweden's three largest cities, the report said.

The town of Rinkeby, a Stockholm suburb inhabited mostly by immigrants, topped the list, with an absentee rate almost twice as high as the national average.

"People out here have heavy, monotonous, dangerous and boring jobs," said Gun Brit Johansson, head of the local social insurance office.

Svenska Dagbladet columnist Lars Fimmerstad, in a satirical piece entitled "A sick society," said he could envision Soviet tanks rolling into Stockholm and opposed because the army had taken sick leave like everybody else.

The pioneering British artists in India

The work of a pioneering pair of British artists in India has recently been celebrated at a London exhibition that attracted large crowds.

By Patricia Jellicoe

LONDON — Indian art is witnessing a slow revival on the international markets but one aspect of it, the British contribution, remains largely unreported. This has been rectified by a recent show in London.

Some 50 watercolours and drawings of India featured at the Eyre and Greig's stand at the five-day annual World of Drawings and Watercolours fair held at the Park Lane Hotel in London in January. For some 20 years, Giles Eyre has pursued his own interest in Indian art which he's now continuing in partnership with

Charles Greig.

While the Hong Kong boom has elevated prices for Chinese subjects, painted by George Chinnery and others, the unique contribution of English artists to India, from the late 18th century until Edward Lear's visit in 1872, is still undervalued, both in aesthetic and monetary terms.

Two extraordinary survivals of these fragile but deeply evocative paintings are those of Edward Robinson's formal pattern in watercolour of the Huradwar district, dated 1775 (the year of Bunker Hill and of Washington's taking over command from the British!) and the second, of Thomas Daniell's superb view of Tak

Kool Near Salem, South India, dated 1792 (the year of the French royal family's flight to Varennes!).

Daniell's watercolour is deceptively simple in line and colour, but the slate-blue wash of the mountain emerges with incredible strength from the minute figures and dusky soft Indian tree-line in the foreground, immersing one in the grandeur of India's majestic mountains.

Between 1760 and 1820 there were no fewer than 61 British artists in India, of whom William Hodges, Tilly Kettle, Zoffany, and Farrington were amongst the first. The East India Company's employees became wealthy communities of British residents and munificent patrons, while Indian princes and nobles began to follow the fashion in patronising the arts of the western world. In Britain there was enormous interest among the many who were unable to visit India, the fabulous land — foremost among them being King George III and Queen Charlotte.

Journeys

The success in fame and fortune of these earlier painters inspired Thomas Daniell and his adopted 17-year-old orphaned nephew, William, to apply to the East India Company. Possibly interested in the use of the new aquatint engraving of which Thomas was an early exponent, the company transported them via Canton (Whampoa) in China to Calcutta where they arrived in early 1786. A Picturesque Voyage to India By Way of China was the result of that journey.

Realising that many Calcutta residents would be interested in views of their own fine city — the first presidential city in all India, sometimes called "the city of palaces" — Thomas Daniell spent his first two years making drawings of the chief buildings and engraving the 12 plates for Views of Calcutta. Published between 1786 and 1788, these were a financial success which enabled him to plan for his second purpose — a long tour upcountry.

William Hodges' Select Views in India, where he had spent the years 1780-83, had recently appeared and guided their initial travels: more importantly, it stimulated them to travel more widely and to record more accurately.

Their journeys fall into two parts: firstly, the great Islamic monuments of the Ganges Basin, including the three royal mausoleums of Humayun in Delhi, Akbar at Sikandra, and Shah Jahan and Nur Mahal at Agra; secondly, South India, so different and with its much older buildings at Mahabalipuram, Tanjore and Madurai.

From August 1778, they travelled almost constantly for two years with only a break of three to four months in Lucknow, Jaunpore, a drawing exhibited by Eyre and Greig, must have been sketched then, and possibly the interesting drawing of a fakir riding a bullock by Thomas Daniell.

In his laconic diary, young William records their long journeys in mileage measured by the "perambulator" — a wheel turned by a handle and to which was attached a clockwork dial (only later did the name become that a baby's carriage, and finally a "pram").

Calcutta

William would sketch in rapidly the accurate shape and position of a monument by means of the "camera obscura," which, like a camera, threw a silhouette onto the white sheet of paper. Thomas, the more fluent, gifted and trained artist, would then draw the scene. In the evenings, they would finish the scenes with dead-colour and wash, pencilling in title and sometimes date.

From about May 1790, with the coming of the rains, they stayed with their friend Samuel Davis,

administrator and amateur artist, at Bhagalpur for about a year, finishing and arranging the hundreds of drawings and watercolours from which Thomas worked up a large number of oils. On 1 March 1792 a lottery was held in Calcutta for 150 of Thomas's oils and further views of the city. The successful result sent the Daniells off, 10 days later, on their second great tour — this time to South India.

After a tour of some nine months during which they followed much of the country over which Lord Cornwallis had fought the Third Mysore War against Tipu Sultan, when they both climbed and drew these precipitous fells, they reached Madras.

The fourth series of landscapes in South India of the waterfalls at Kuttalam and Papanasam and the great peak of Mahendra Giri, says art historian Dr. Mildred Archer, are "perhaps the most magnificent of all the groups produced by the Daniells." (Tak Kool is surely one of these).

On Feb. 18 1793 in Madras they held a second lottery and set out on the third and final stage of their journeys. They visited the Elephanta caves and other rock-cut temples together with the artist James Wales; after Wales's death in 1795 his son-in-law invited Thomas Daniell to engrave Wales's drawings of Ellora and other temples.

Thomas and William Daniell arrived back in England in September 1794. With them they brought a vast stock of monochrome and watercolour

drawings; no British artist had ever explored any land outside Europe as extensively. For the next 13 years Thomas and his nephew "translated" 144 of their Indian drawings and watercolours into aquatints for the six monumental volumes of Oriental Scenery. Published between 1795 and 1808 for £210, each volume of 24 plates was accompanied by an octavo pamphlet containing brief descriptions. More publishing followed.

But for Thomas Daniell, we should never have had "the Indian phase" of some 30 years in British architecture, bequeathing us the romantic Brighton Pavilion of John Nash and lovely Sezincote in the Cotswolds.

The courageously enterprising travels and tremendous industry of Thomas and William Daniell, the accuracy in depicting both the fine details of Islamic architecture and Hindu monuments, as well as the delicate beauty of panoramic views of hill and river scenery in the two such differing worlds of India, altered western perception from the exotically romantic to the classic and infinitely majestic beauty of India.

The World of Drawings and Watercolours is an annual affair arranged, with the participation of a "strong advisory committee," by Heather McConnell, Gay Hutton and Ivan Winstone. This year's event attracted some 800 to 2,000 visitors daily, resulting in the sale of over 1,000 drawings and watercolours and a turnover of \$2.7 million. — Academic File.

A crisis for movie houses in France

By Olivier Desbrosses

PARIS — The number of cinema-goers in France has been steadily declining for several years. There is said to be a crisis. If, in 1988, there was hardly any improvement in the situation, there were, nevertheless, a few French and foreign films which were a great success.

American films head the league-table for the percentage of films screened in France. Nearly 55 per cent of films distributed in France in 1988 came from the United States.

Particularly noteworthy is the overwhelming success of Robert Zemeckis' film-cum-cartoon "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?" which is about to top a million admissions in Paris after running for four weeks.

However, the second American film to hit French box-offices, Adrian Lyne's "Fatal Attraction" had fewer than 600,000 admissions, followed by John Landis's "Coming to America" and Roman Polanski's "Frantic".

All the other American production did not exceed 500,000 admissions and even Steven Spielberg's superb "Empire of the Sun" can be considered as a semi-failure.

The excellent score obtained by the German, Percy Adlan, with his "Bagdad Café", is noteworthy. It is a fascinating, low-budget film whose success is mainly due to recommendations by word of mouth.

On the French side, Luc Besson's "Le Grand Bleu" was the event of the year in France with 1,300,000 admissions after running for six months. Yet this film is something of a hybrid. It was produced with French money, but filmed in English with a French and American cast.

If the importance of such a success on the French cinema cannot be denied, the discreet triumph of "La Vie est un Long Fleuve Tranquille" is, in a sense,

far more exemplary. This film, which is 100% French was more than honourably successful for a low-budget production without a showy advertising campaign or famous actors.

To complete this winning threesome, "L'Ours", acclaimed by the critics, almost topped a million admissions after running for two weeks. A record, never seen before! But it is still too soon to make a statement on the long-term success of this film.

Apart from these three films, the rest of the French cinematographic production for 1988 resulted in numerous flops, for instance, "Les Chouans", a super-production on the French Revolution which barely crossed the 300,000 admissions mark, in Paris.

It is true that the cinema may be going through a crisis, but it is certainly going through a turning-point. The profusion of television channels and the growing success of video-clubs have brought about a revolution which was bound to happen. Famous actors, film-directors and producers too appear in series ranks on the television screen.

Many films are now made so that they can be shown as television films in several instalments. An example which was widely spoken of is "Cinema" (a significant title), a television film in four, one hour long, episodes, which was recently shown with considerable success on French television with the top star in French cinema as the leading actor, Alain Delon himself. And that is just a beginning.

However, the cinema is keeping its head high. Indeed, all the film producers and distributors are, at present, launching a big advertising campaign in favour of the big screen, in parallel with the appearance of some important French films, including Claude Lelouch's new film. Could this be the sign of a renewal in French cinema? Why not!

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U.S. central bank raises discount rate to 7%

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Federal Reserve (Fed), responding decisively to a spurt in inflation, raised its key interest rate by half a point Friday to its highest level in almost three years.

The central bank said it was raising the discount rate immediately to 7.0 per cent from 6.5 "in light of inflationary pressures in the economy."

The move followed Tuesday's report of a 0.6 per cent jump in consumer prices in January, which Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan called disturbing, and a half-point increase in the prime rate to 11.5 per cent by two big commercial banks Thursday. Other banks followed suit Friday.

Heightening tensions

The rise in the discount rate, at which the Fed lends money overnight to commercial banks, dealt a blow to President Bush's hopes that a robust economy and falling interest rates would make it easier to reduce the federal budget deficit.

As such, it was likely to heighten tensions between the administration and the Fed. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady had already made clear he was unhappy with Greenspan's tough line on inflation.

"I think inflation is a concern but I don't know as I see as strong evidence of inflation as does the Federal Reserve," Brady told the House of Representatives Banking Committee Thursday.

Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater, speaking in Turkey before the Fed's move, said rising interest rates underscored the need for a budget accord with Congress.

"We are as concerned about inflation as anyone, but we also want interest rates to remain low. The best way to do that is a budget agreement that cuts the deficits, that cuts federal spending and that takes pressure off interest rates," Fitzwater told reporters.

The immediate impact of the discount rate increase, the first since August, is to make the political challenge posed by the deficit stiffer than ever. Every percentage point increase in interest rates adds about \$4.5 billion to the cost of servicing the \$2.6 trillion national debt.

Cutting the deficit would function as an escape valve in the economy, which after six years of growth is close to the boiling point.

With factories running flat out and the jobless rate at a 14-year low of 5.3 per cent, price and wage pressures are building up. Annual inflation rose to 4.7 per cent in January, compared with 4.4 per cent in 1988 and 1987, and Fed officials fear it will rise further.

Greenspan has told Congress that until the deficit came down he had little choice but to take some steam out of the economy by continuing to drive up interest rates.

Many Wall Street economists had criticised Greenspan for dragging his feet on inflation, which they feared would spiral out of control without firm action by the Fed.

The Fed has pushed up money market rates since last March from about 6.5 per cent to 9.75 but had kept the psychologically important discount rate in reserve — until the latest batch of inflation figures.

Slowdown

The discount rate influences the cost of money throughout the economy, from the rates on treasury bills and car loans to the cost of business credit and home mortgages.

Only a tiny amount of cash in

the banking system actually pays interest at the discount rate, but an increase lifts the entire interest rate structure.

Eventually, money becomes so dear that some consumers will not be able to buy new homes and cars and some companies will not be able to afford to invest in new equipment.

Factories will cut production, workers will be laid off and, as the economy slows, price pressures will abate.

The trick for Greenspan is to engineer this slowdown gradually so as not to tip the economy into a recession that would make it harder than ever to cut the budget deficit.

The Fed last lifted the discount rate on Aug 9, to 6.5 per cent from 6.0. The rate had previously been unchanged since Sept. 4, 1987, when it went to 6.0 per cent from 5.5. It was last at 7.0 per cent in April 1986.

Meanwhile, Bush, answering reporters' questions in Tokyo Friday, acknowledged that he and Greenspan differ somewhat on the question about a resurgence of inflation.

"We talked about this," Bush said. "He has more concern" about the most recent consumer price figures.

"But I don't think you can make a judgment on one month's figures," Bush said. "But look, if he's right on inflation, his concerns, if they're a little more than mine, we should be alert to that."

Since taking office, Bush on several occasions has expressed concern that the central bank is overreacting to the inflation threat and could unduly impede economic growth by driving up interest rates.

'Extremely unhelpful'

The public split between the administration and the Fed, although both sides have tried to play down the dispute, drew disapproving words Friday from Federal Budget Director Richard

Darman.

He said visible disagreement among the government's economic policymakers was "extremely unhelpful" and "tends to be unsettling" to financial markets, foreign observers and businesses.

Private analysts, however, say the central bank has been too slow and too meek in its response to the inflation threat and that the latest move was long overdue.

Credibility

"I think the Fed wanted to send a message underlining its credibility, that it wants to fight inflation, to one and all — the markets, the White House and the public at large," said Lyle Gramley, senior economist with the Mortgage Bankers Association.

The former Fed governor also said it was a mistake for the White House to criticize Federal Reserve credit policies. It puts the independent central bank in a position of having to defend its credibility, he said. Others agreed.

"It was a signal to the markets that they are not going to be bullied by the White House," said Lawrence Chimere, chairman of the Wafa Group, an economic forecasting group.

White House economic adviser Michael Boskin said in a television interview that Fed policy operates after a lag period and "we wouldn't want to get into a situation where the Federal Reserve, rather than taking measured action, did something that was extreme and it caused the economy to head into a sharp downturn."

"I think they will avoid that," Boskin added.

Economist David Jones of Aubrey G. Lanston and Co. financial firm in New York said the Fed's action had been widely anticipated and there even was some speculation the central bank might boost the rate a full percentage point rather than a half-point. He said further tightening could be expected as the Fed tries to control escalating prices.

"It was an appropriate action... and does bring the Fed into rough alignment with the amount of restraint needed to stay even with the new inflation threat," Jones said. "We are in the process of accelerating (inflation) and it will require further Fed tightening steps."

Savings and loan industry

Fed member Seger, the lone dissenter to Friday's move, has expressed concern in the past that higher interest rates could slow

economic growth too much and hurt the ailing savings and loan industry.

Greenspan told the Senate Banking Committee Thursday that a one percentage point increase in interest rates adds \$3 billion to \$4 billion to savings institutions' operating losses.

Wall Street shares sink

Reacting to the rise in the discount rate, Wall Street's blue chip index sank more than 40 points Friday as investors feared a choke economic expansion.

The Don Jones industrial average, which managed to rise 5.33 points Thursday despite inflation worries, was off 43.92 points at 2,245.54 by the closing bell.

On Wednesday the index fell 42.50 points in what was then the biggest one-day fall in over three months. "Rising interest rates spell trouble for the stock market," said Travellers Investment Management senior trader Susan Del Signore.

Investors feel they are better off parking their money where they will derive the most benefit from higher rates instead of in the stock market. "The magnetic attraction of higher interest rates is lessening the demand for stocks," said trader Tom Ryan of Kidder Peabody Co. Inc.

The index, which was buffeted last week by worries that the Fed was not doing enough to battle inflation, lost 79.28 points for the week. In fact the well-publicised new year rally that had tacked 174 points on the Dow index in January has slumped down to 76.97 points.

New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) volume was estimated at 160 million shares and declines led advances by 1,177 to 329 after waves of programme selling hit the market.

The index is at about the same level it closed at the Friday before the market crash of Oct. 19, 1987. While analysts do not believe it will repeat its performance of October 1987, investors have become concerned that rising rates will hurt corporate profits. Higher interest rates raise the cost of borrowing funds for corporations and crimp consumer spending.

Of the rate hikes, which included an upward movement in the closely watched federal funds rate, the higher prime rate seemed to have the most impact on the stock market. "The prime rate rise is the real surprise," said Larry Wachtel of Prudential Bache Securities Inc.

Weighing risks

"Investors are trying to weigh the risks versus the advantages of

Turkish stocks soar

ISTANBUL (R) — Speculators surged onto the floor of the Istanbul Stock Exchange last week, sending the index up 7.9 per cent to a 1989 high Friday, dealers said.

"The excitement is firing up at last," said broker Mustafa Guler. "There were a thousand people at the bourse Friday. Before there used to be only a hundred or so."

The index hit a new high each day last week, closing at 424.59, its best since last November. Friday's trading volume was also at a 1989 record of 1.042 million lira (\$500,000), double the previous week's average.

One of Istanbul's top foreign-exchange dealers said he had moved into stocks in recent days because "stocks were so cheap — many of them are even under their book prices."

Brokers anticipate good company results due to be announced in March and stocks have also been helped by the expectation of

slower inflation and lower bank deposit interest rates.

A \$60 million Turkish investment fund underwritten by the International Finance Corporation is also due for launch by mid-year, the first of several international funds waiting for permission to buy into Turkish stocks.

The stock index touched a speculative high of 1,332 in August 1987 and tumbled to a post-crash low of 362 in October 1988. The index is based on 100 in January 1986.

Meanwhile, Turkey, saddled with high inflation, a ballooning budget deficit and a hefty foreign debt, is set for another bumpy economic ride in 1989 but says the problems are under control.

"When the going gets tough, the tough get going," State Minister Adnan Kahveci told Reuters. "By the end of 1989 the Turkish people will have solved all their economic problems."

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, Feb. 25, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	86.9	87.6
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	426.1	431.2
Pound Sterling	943.7	953.4	Dutch guilder	262.1	264.2
Deutsche mark	295.4	298.6	Swedish crown	85.9	86.6
Swiss franc	346.5	349.3	Italian lira (for 100)	40.1	40.4
			Belgian franc (for 100)	141.0	142.1

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Feb. 18, '89 and ending Wednesday Feb. 22, '89. (Figures in Jordanian dinars)

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	40450	69114	1.750	1.650	1.000
Petra Bank	11900	31068	2.620	2.600	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	2186	4507	2.120	2.050	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	6012	8965	1.510	1.470	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	13091	16827	1.270	1.280	1.000
Housing Bank	11000	22011	2.030	2.000	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	200	6200	31.000	31.000	5.000
Bank of Jordan	2048	32389	16.200	15.600	5.000
Arab Bank	6520	1039080	157.000	160.100	10.000
Jordan National Bank	31787	86176	2.730	2.710	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	3840	9460	2.810	2.730	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Financial Investments	500	1055	2.100	2.110	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	42230	43622	1.050	1.000	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2.000
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	10.000
Middle East Exchange	—	—	—	—	1.000

Insurance and reinsurance

Jordan French Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
REFCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Insurance	16535	63823	4.000	3.880	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	1000	1110	1.100	1.110	1.000
Yarabouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	3650	4219	1.150	1.160	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Arab Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Middle East Insurance	2185	4309	1.870	2.000	10.000
National Ahlia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000

Services and industries

General Investments	100	135	1.300	1.350	1.000
Inna for Investment and Financial Facilities	1500	1220	0.830	0.800	1.000
Darco for Housing and Investment	25567	21666	0.850	0.850	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	51778	34695	0.690	0.670	1.000
Jordan Real Estate Investments	51123	19970	0.410	0.390	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	17500	3210	0.690	0.680	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Tajreco	119839	36384	0.780	0.790	1.000
International Contracting & Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	8182	13896	1.730	1.700	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	51	46	0.910	0.910	1.000
Arab International Hotels	19000	14717	0.790	0.770	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Middle East and Commodore Hotels	—	—	—	—	1.000
Geige Owners Federation Office	90	410	4.550	4.550	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	48320	53417	1.110	1.130	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	1200	3374	2.750	2.940	1.000
Jordan Press and Publishing	90	90	1.730	1.790	1.000
Dar Al Shab Press, Printing and Publishing	21000	11915	0.580	0.570	1.000
Jordan Dairy	42280	42447	1.030	1.000	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	58676	192812	3.430	3.390	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	305630	528241	1.700	1.710	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	742	2837	3.850	3.820	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	12520	19900	1.710	1.600	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	100	435	4.330	4.350	1.000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Sweets and Chocolate Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Aladdin Industries	52160	97784	1.910	1.890	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	52270	113767	2.240	2.180	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	850	4773	5.500	5.600	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	59200	123883	2.300	2.070	1.000
Chemical Industries	6550	18453	3.000	2.800	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	19788	14876	0.760	0.760	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	6508	15616	2.500	2.420	1.000
National Steel Industries	152680	470520	3.130	3.140	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	115185	347064	3.200	3.010	5.000
General Mining	1778	3096	1.570	1.780	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	4245	37159	8.900	8.750	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	144550	31572	0.230	0.220	1.000
National Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	32012	14404	0.420	0.430	1.000
Arab Investment and International Trade	13580	7741	0.580	0.570	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	26300	42096	1.680	1.650	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	665	506	0.710	0.730	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	15210	29006	1.910	1.880	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	5300	6785	1.330	1.320	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	2041	8033	4.050	3.950	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	118075	133702	1.150	1.160	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	200	202	0.960	1.010	1.000
Jordan Tanning	855	1753	2.050	2.050	5.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	1.000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	112230	182661	1.640	1.610	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	102914	121647	1.180	1.190	1.000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	39750	121310	3.090	3.050	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	52430	64375	1.240	1.220	1.000
Jordan Glass Industries	6850	7525	1.150	1.100	1.000
Grand total	2,123,558	4,465,061			

Spanish bank merger nears collapse

MADRID (R) — Efforts to merge two leading banks into Spain's biggest financial group seemed destined to collapse amid disagreement among leading shareholders.

Sources at Banco Espanol de Credito (Banesto) and at Banco Central said the two were expected formally to abandon a merger plan this week.

"It appears there is no alternative to abandoning the merger because the main protagonists are now against it," a source at Banco Central said. A Banesto source said a decision to call off the merger had apparently been negotiated in advance.

Spain's four bourses suspended trading in shares of the two banks until further notice pending a sign of government concern at confusion over the affair, government spokeswoman Rosa Conde said the administration was appealed to the banks to

guarantee protection of investors. A meeting was called this week as two key players in the merger signalled they wanted to sell their shares.

The Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) said Thursday it wanted to pull out of an investment company it owns jointly with two Spanish businessmen, with key shareholders in both banks.

A spokesman for the Kuwaitis' Spanish interests said the KIO was alarmed by disagreement between Spanish partners Alberto Cortina and Alberto Alcocer and Banesto Chairman Mario Conde. He said the KIO had offered to sell its stake to Cortina and Alcocer, popularly known as the Albertos.

The government also asked the Kuwaitis to wind down their interests in Spanish banking. But a banker linked to the Albertos said the Kuwaitis had committed themselves to holding

the stake in Cartera for at least five years when the company was set up in 1987.

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4.1	62.1
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Sports

Duran, 37, wins title, erases 'no mas' slur

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Expectations were mixed. Roberto Duran was 37 years old, and who was Iran Barkley, anyway? On the next night, Mike Tyson was fighting in Las Vegas, so, big deal. It was only supposed to be the second best fight of the weekend.

Instead, it may one day be recorded as one of the greatest of all time.

Duran, at 37 years old, erased, once and for all, the sting of his "no mas," fight against Sugar Ray Leonard in 1980 by winning his fourth world championship, the World Boxing Council middleweight title, with a split, 12-round decision over Barkley Friday night.

There was no quit in Duran this time as he fought furiously with Barkley through 12 rounds in a fight that came 21 years and one day after he began his pro career and nearly 17 years after winning his first world title.

Now, a second Duran-Leonard rematch looms as a real possibility, "no mas" one more time.

"I don't remember when I felt this good," Duran said in one breath, then added: "Next time, when I fight Leonard, I will be in better shape than this. I was not up to my peak tonight. I will be at my peak for Leonard."

Duran is under contract to Top Rank's Bob Arum for his next fight, which was supposed to be against the winner of the March

25 middleweight bout between World Boxing Association champion Sumu Kalamhay and International Boxing Federation champion Michael Nunn.

Arum, also promoting the Leonard-Thomas Hearns rematch this June, said "Duran-Leonard III would be a natural."

There was real animosity between Duran and Barkley when the fight began. But, as is so often the case after these classic wars, it ended with a measure of respect.

"Man, you are very tough, a good fighter," Duran said to Barkley.

"It was a good fight, a great fight," Barkley said. "The best man won the way the judges see it and scored it. He's a great fighter."

The fight could have gone either way until Duran knocked Barkley down in the 11th round of a non-stop fight with what truly was a classic combination of punches.

Barkley had just landed a left-right combination when, as he had done throughout the fight, Duran retaliated, dipping into the reserves of his 37-year-old body.

He hit Barkley with two stunning, rapid-fire rights. Barkley backed, and Duran landed a right. Then a left. Then a right. Then a left. Then a right. And Barkley wobbled and fell to the floor of the ring.



Mike Tyson

Bitter enemies

LAS VEGAS (R) — Mike Tyson's street instincts showed Friday at the weigh-in for his title fight when he dropped the front of his briefs in an obscene gesture aimed at British challenger Frank Bruno.

Tyson, stripped to bikini-style red briefs with black tiger stripes, stood next to the scale staring at Bruno, peeled down the front of his briefs and rolled his shoulders. He stopped just short of fully exposing himself.

Bruno, standing on the other side of the scale, continued staring at Tyson's face for a few moments and then walked away.

Bruno's manager, Terry Lawless, said Bruno — a heavy underdog against Tyson — did not say anything to the champion about the gesture. Lawless added with a grin that maybe Bruno "didn't see anything."

Brazil faces Argentina in World Youth Cup quarters

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — A Latin American showdown between Brazil and Argentina is the main focus of the quarterfinals in the fifth World Youth Soccer Cup tournament in this Saudi Arabian Red Sea port city Saturday.

Eight of the 16 teams have been eliminated, leaving eight others, including Portugal, Colombia, Iraq, the United States, Nigeria and the Soviet Union, to do battle under the Arabian sun.

After a two-day rest, four will go through to semifinals. The final of the biennial cup, sponsored by the International Football Federation FIFA and Coca-Cola, will be March 3.

Argentina's coach, Carlos Oscar Pachame, said Friday that his team's match against Brazil at the Youth Welfare stadium "does have a distinct flavor to it."

The battle between these two soccer giants is expected to be tough. But on their earlier showing, Brazil is tipped the favorite.

Brazilian coach Rene Rodrigues Simeoes was cagey Friday as he put his squad through its paces, but he said his players were ready.

Forward Sergio Santos Gil and star defender Cassio Alves De Barros, who had been rested by Simeoes for the final group C engagement against the U.S. team, will likely take the field.

Paulo Roberto disclosed late Friday, after much speculation, that Simeoes will field injured Edson Luiz Garcia Campos Saturday.

He's been recuperating since he broke a bone in his jaw in last Sunday's game against Mali.

The Argentinians arrived in Jeddah from the Western mountain city of Taif, where they finished second behind Iraq in group D, and quickly began to acclimatize themselves.

Skipper Diego Pablo Simeone has emerged as their star player and his performance Saturday will be crucial.

"We first planned to qualify (for the quarterfinals), and now we plan to beat Brazil to smooth our path to the final," Simeone said.

While all eyes will be on the Latin American duel, Iraq is also tipped to make the semi-finals by beating the U.S. team.

The Iraqis, who challenged Argentina and Spain in the group matches in Taif, emerged as a contender with a gritty style that has won them many fans.

They take on the Americans, the group C runners-up, at the King Fahd Sports City stadium. After beating Argentina, despite being one man down, and Spain, they look in good shape for Saturday's game.

The Americans have played a loose defensive formation, like the Iraqis. But unless the Iraqis show a sudden loss of form, they look like going through.

The Soviets play Nigeria in the Prince Saud Ibn Jalawi stadium in Dammam in eastern Saudi Arabia, in what promises to be an interesting quarterfinal.

English League

Arsenal notch win, stay clear

LONDON (AP) — Perry Groves and Alan Smith scored in the second half to break a two-game scoring drought and lead Arsenal to a 2-0 home victory over Luton Saturday that kept the team four points ahead of Norwich atop the English soccer league.

Norwich kept pace by scoring twice in the first half to defeat Manchester United 2-1, handing the Red Devils their first loss in 11 games. The defeat dropped United from fourth to fifth in the standings and ended its streak of four consecutive league victories.

Tony Casciaro scored his 17th goal of the season with just six minutes left in the game to give Millwall a 1-0 home victory against Coventry that allowed Millwall to take over third place and dropped Coventry to fourth.

Weather was the dominant factor throughout the English and Scottish leagues Saturday, with rain and snow forcing the cancellation of 15 games. Many matches that were played became muddy, sloppy affairs.

In other division one games, English international goalie Peter Shilton made his 850th league appearance a successful one as his Derby team defeated Everton 3-2 and Tottenham won its second consecutive game by thrashing Southampton 2-0.

Also, Charlton scored a 2-1 road triumph at Aston Villa, starting only his third league match of the season, broke an Arsenal scoring drought of two games and Smith headed in his 20th goal of the season as time ran out.

By rebounding from a 1-0 Tuesday league loss to Coventry, which had ended an 11-game Arsenal unbeaten streak, the Gunners jumped up to 54 points for the season and maintained their narrow margin over Norwich. Luton now has not won a league match at Arsenal in three decades.

Arsenal, which has not captured the league championship since 1971, will play eight of its final 12 games at home.

Norwich also rebounded from a mid-week loss as goals by Ian Butterworth and Malcolm Allen gave the hosts a 2-0 halftime lead over Manchester United. Allen's goal was his seventh in the last six games.

Paul McGrath's first goal of the season pulled United back into the game with only nine minutes remaining, but a last-minute header by substitute Lee Martin that would have tied the contest just went over the goal.

Tottenham, which had been slipping toward relegation before it won its first game of 1989 Tuesday against Norwich, struck again with its victory at Southampton on goals by Chris Waddle and Moroccan international player Nayim.

Southampton has now not won in 17 games.

In Germany, Roland Wohlfarth scored two goals as Bayern Munich overcame Karlsruhe 3-2 to extend its unbeaten streak to a record 19 games and maintain its four-point lead in the West German first soccer division Saturday.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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FIND THE SAFE WAY

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K J 10 7 5
♥ A 9 2
♦ J 6 4 3
♣ A 10 5

EAST
♠ J 8 5 4 3 2
♥ Q 8 4
♦ Q 5 3
♣ Q 9 7 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 7
♥ A 6
♦ K J 10 8 7 4
♣ K 8

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

Study only the North-South cards. There is a line that virtually guarantees the contract. Can you spot it?

No one would say a word about South's jump to two no trump if he had a low club instead of a sixth diamond. With a hand that is, to all intents, balanced, we endorse South's action wholeheartedly. It did, however, create a problem for North. Since the spade suit might have been inadequately stopped, he showed his diamond support in the hope of eliciting a heart preference. Unfortunately this vaulted his side into five diamonds instead of the superior three no trump. West led the ten of spades against five diamonds.

Declarer won West's spade lead in dummy and tried an avoidance play of leading a diamond to the ten. West won and returned a trump to dummy's nine. Now declarer still had to guess how to make the hand. He took a reasonable shot by cashing the ace-king of hearts and ruffing a heart in an attempt to drop the queen. When nothing good happened, he returned to dummy with the ace of trumps and led a club to the king. Down one.

There is a line that guarantees the contract as long as trumps are no worse than 3-1 and hearts 4-2. Win the spade and cash the king of diamonds. Now take the ace-king of hearts and lead a third heart. If East is short in hearts and ruffs high, you discard a club loser and claim. All you'll lose are the ruff and a club trick. If East discards, you ruff, cross to the ace of diamonds and ruff another heart to set up a long card. You get back to the table by ruffing a spade and a club goes away on the long heart.

Suppose East follows to the third heart. Ruff with the seven and, if hearts are 3-3, draw another round of trumps and claim! If West overruffs, the two trumps in dummy are both entries to set up and use the long heart. If West cannot or refuses to overruff, continue as above. Either way, you're home.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Clair takes lead in Thai Open

PATTHUM THANI, Thailand (AP) — Brian Clair of the United States shot a four-under-par 68 Saturday for a three-stroke lead entering the final round of the \$150,000 Thailand Open Golf tournament. "Three shots in the lead is not a big lead. Anything can happen tomorrow," said Clair, 29, of Florida. Clair, who first took the lead Friday, said he wanted to be the second American to win consecutively on the Asia golf circuit. The only player to do so was Payne Stewart, in 1984. Clair won the Hong Kong Open last week. The Thai Open is the third leg of the 11-leg Asia circuit.

Navratilova moves into semis

OAKLAND, California (AP) — Martina Navratilova became the fourth seeded player to move into the semifinals of the \$250,000 Virginia Slims of California tennis tournament Friday night by defeating Jenny Byrne of Australia, 6-1, 6-3. Earlier in the year, the 69th-ranked Byrne lost a close match at the Australian Open to Navratilova, 3-2, first seed and defending champion here, but Friday had a few more serving problems. "You just can't afford to give too many second serves to her," said Byrne, 21. "I served better in Australia." Also moving to the semifinals Friday were Larisa Savchenko and Natalia Zvereva, both of the Soviet Union. They had straight set victories.

ANC says sports boycott on S. Africa to stay

LUSAKA (R) — Exiled anti-apartheid leaders refused Friday to ease their sports boycott campaign by letting non-racial South African organizations compete internationally. The African National Congress (ANC), the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (SANROC) and the International Campaign Against Apartheid in Sport (ICAAS) held two days of talks. "The meeting reaffirmed the policy agreed upon with the non-racial sports bodies inside South Africa, that the creation of non-racial sports organizations does in no way imply their immediate entry into international sports competitions," a joint statement said. Speculation about a possible softening of the sports boycott, regarded as the anti-apartheid movement's most effective sanction against South Africa, began last year when the ANC held talks in Harare with the South African rugby board.

Mayotte to face Agassi

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Defending champion Tim Mayotte faces top-seeded Andre Agassi, the flamboyant world number four, in the semifinals of the U.S. pro indoor tennis championships determined to "make it a tennis match and not a Vegas floor show." The semifinals between mild-mannered Mayotte and the entertaining Agassi was set up by contrasting quarter-final victories taken Friday. Mayotte held off fifth seed Brad Gilbert 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 in two hours 13 minutes, while the Nevada teenager beat Dan Goldie 6-1, 6-4 in just 57 minutes in his all-American quarter-final. Also reaching the semifinals was second seed Boris Becker, who rallied back from a set down to beat South African Christo Van Rensburg 3-6, 6-1, 6-4. The victory put the West German into the final four against Sweden's Mikael Pernfors, a 6-4, 6-3 winner over American Robert Seguso.

Peanuts



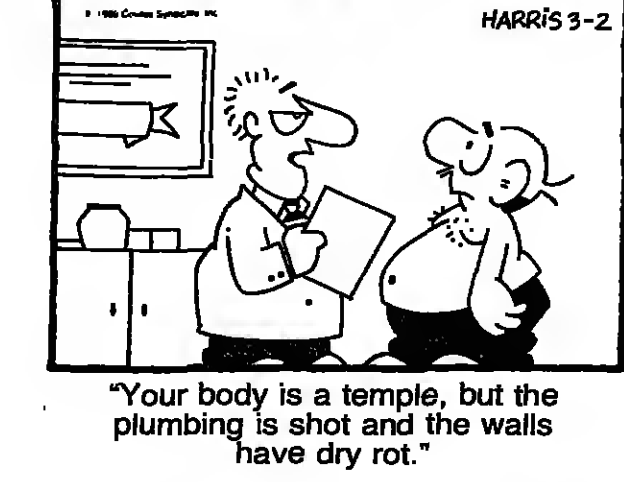
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF, By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GOGSY
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

CRANF
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

MECION
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

COMIAT
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

IT'S HARD TO RAISE A CHILD, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: TULLE FUDGE PELVIS SUPERB
Answer: What a good insecticide might be — A "PEST" SELLER

Now back to school. Jumble Book No. 94 is available for \$2.95, which includes postage and handling. Send \$2.95, plus \$1.00 shipping, to: Jumble Book, P.O. Box 1000, Chicago, IL 60601-0001. Include your name, address, phone number and date your check payable to Newspaperbooks.

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Associating with inferior people and social groups is a waste of time if you are goal-oriented. Use caution and avoid solutions based on the pressures of the moment.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Study all the facts before you decide on a career change. Delve into projects and people you like. Today you are in control.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Differing opinions can make this day unpleasant unless you remain flexible. Keep away from a dangerous emotional situation.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Good fortune comes in many forms. A blend of study and planning gives you the formula for success. Power comes from self-discipline.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Submit to a need to help someone with an emotional problem. A friendship develops with someone you enjoy talking with.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Avoid taking unnecessary chances. An improved plan will consolidate entertainment activities. Someone apologizes for a cruel remark.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) People around you expect more than you can give, and test your self-control. You manage to bring yourself and others back to harmony.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You feel affectionate to those around you who may not be receptive. A lib-

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) The opposite sex is stimulating, but you must be alone part of the time. Watch pleasure spending. Adjust and focus on self-control.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Avoid a crisis by sticking to your own affairs. Later, a sunny visitor brightens the mood. Dining out would be beautiful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) The day is on a happy note where family is concerned. If you are unattached, keep eyes wide open today for a stimulating contact.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Nothing you do seems to please others. There are no medals for diplomacy, but your attitude will be accepted by others in the end.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You may get the boredom blues today for lack of something exciting to do. Try calling a newcomer to your social set.



An old woman, a victim of the 1984 Union Carbide plant gas disaster in Bhopal, holds a sign which reads: "Down with Union Carbide."

Majority of Bhopal victims may not get compensation

BHOPAL (AP) — More than half of 590,000 people who claimed they were hurt by the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster have not medically verified their claims for compensation and may never get any money, relief officials said Saturday.

The government is anxious to settle claims. Union Carbide Corporation deposited \$465 million with the supreme court in New Delhi Friday in full settlement of damages caused by the leak of toxic gas from a pesticide plant owned by the U.S.-based multinational.

The court Feb. 14 ordered Union Carbide to pay a total of \$470 million to settle claims arising out of the world's worst industrial disaster.

The government was asked Friday to submit a breakdown of

how the funds would be allotted within a week.

More than 3,400 people were killed by the leakage of poisonous methyl isocyanate gas Dec. 3, 1984.

Victims are still dying at the rate of more than one each day, medical records indicate.

The government says 20,000 people are seriously affected by exposure to the gas that leaked from the plant operated by Union Carbide's Indian subsidiary.

More than 500,000 other people have filed damage claims.

The government has set up a directorate of claims for the documentation of claims filed by those affected by the gas leakage. About 100 doctors have been aiding bureaucrats to identify genuine victims.

About 250,000 claims have

been certified so far, officials said.

Officials said privately that many of the claims filed since after the 1984 gas leak were "bogus," but declined to elaborate.

The Indian government filed suit on behalf of more than half a million victims for damages of \$3.3 billion against Union Carbide.

Claimants were required to fill in forms specifying injuries to file claims. A total of 590,000 claim papers were filed with the Gas Relief and Rehabilitation Department.

Officials are now trying to hasten the final verification process.

Claimants living within a radius of about five kilometres from the pesticide plant are viewed as genuine, officials said.

Definite conclusions evade Jumbo blast investigators

HONOLULU (R) — Federal investigators Saturday looked for evidence of structural failure in the Jumbo jet which blew open over the Pacific, ripping a huge hole in the fuselage through which nine people were sucked to apparent death.

Although they have not ruled out a bomb attack on the ageing United Airlines Boeing 747, some of them said the hole in the side of the plane appeared too "clean" to have been caused by an explosion.

"At this point we can't confirm or deny that there was any kind of explosive," Robert Heatner of the Honolulu Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said after a preliminary examination of the aircraft.

"But there was one of the usual fragmentation from when a bomb goes off."

A team of investigators from the National Safety Transportation Board was conducting the official investigation into the disaster.

Flight 811, which originated in San Francisco Friday, was flying at 6,700 metres en route from Honolulu to Auckland, New Zealand with 336 passengers and 18

crew aboard.

It was about 112 kilometres southwest of Honolulu when the hole suddenly appeared in the business-class section. The crew, alerted when an engine shot down, turned the plane around, dumped fuel and landed safely at Honolulu International Airport.

Survivors told of fellow passengers disappearing through the hole and debris flying around the cabin. United Airlines said six Americans, two Australians and a New Zealander were missing.

All of them had been assigned seats on the right-hand side of the plane, just ahead of the wing, where the gap opened.

A spokeswoman for the Hawaiian Department of Transportation, Marilyn Kali, said the cockpit crew were alerted when a right engine shut down. A trouble indicator for the second right engine flashed on and the crew also shut that one down.

William Speicher, a United Airlines senior vice president, refused to speculate on the cause of the engine malfunction but said that "obviously a lot of debris left the aircraft."

The U.S. Coast Guard found some debris — several pieces of metal, luggage and a seat cushion — in the sea about 150 kilometres southwest of Honolulu but has not yet positively identified it as coming from Flight 811.

The Honolulu coroner's office said human remains and clothing had been found in one of the right engines, indicating that a passenger might have been sucked into it.

Paul Hotz, from Sydney, said he heard what sounded like an explosion and then people sitting near him began disappearing. He and his family had been wearing seat belts and escaped with only minor injuries.

Adelle Morgan, of Eugene, Oregon, who had been going to New Zealand for a holiday with her husband John, said the crew told survivors to bang on the plane, no longer pressurised, headed back to Honolulu to a loud noise roaring through the hole.

"The ceiling was flying around. Glasses were flying around. Magazines were flying around. Everything was moving, including us," she said.

United Airlines, which operates 18 jumbos on its Pacific routes, said the 18-year-old 747 had made a normal number of takeoffs and landings for its age. Speicher said it had undergone a routine maintenance check Feb. 15.

"This aeroplane has had every possible maintenance check up to date. There is nothing that I have seen that is outstanding that would cause concern on the maintenance of the airplane," he said.

It was the second time in 10 months that a jetliner landed in Hawaii after losing a major section of its fuselage. On April 28 last year, an Aloha Airlines Boeing 737 lost an six-metre section from the top of its fuselage. A flight attendant was sucked out of the plane and 61 passengers were injured.

Investigators said that incident might have been caused by corrosion beneath skin flaps and related metal fatigue.

Cosmonauts dine in style

MOSCOW (AP) — When Soviet cosmonauts celebrate a holiday, they do it in style. To mark the birthday of the army and navy Thursday, cosmonauts Alexander Volkov, Sergei Krikalev and Valery Polyakov dined on pickled cucumbers, lemons, fresh fruit and Russian bee honey, the TASS news agency said. According to the news agency, such gourmet delights are all part of a space diet that includes some 70 dishes, including meat, fish and dairy products, that are served up aboard the Mir space station. "Some dishes are so exquisite that lovers of gourmet food on Earth would be glad to have them," the news agency said. "These include chicken paste with plums, sturgeon with jelly sauce, processed fruit and all kinds of juices." One item in the holiday feast was out, however, and that was champagne.

Bush taking boots as gifts

TOKYO (AP) — U.S. President George Bush, a self-proclaimed Texan, is taking hand-made, black leather cowboy boots to Peking as gifts for China's top leaders. Moreover, Bush will throw a Texas-style barbecue in Peking Sunday night in return for a banquet his Chinese hosts are giving in his honour Saturday night in the Great Hall of the People. In two days of meetings in the Chinese capital, Bush will confer with 84-year-old Deng Xiaoping, the country's senior leader, as well as President Yang Shangkun, Communist Party General Secretary Zhao Ziyang and Premier Li Peng. Mrs. Bush's press secretary, Ann A. Perez, said the president had the boots made for the four Chinese leaders by R.J. Boot Company of Houston. An American flag is emblazoned on the right boot and the Chinese flag on the left boot of each pair, she said. Perez said she did not know how the bootmaker determined the leaders' shoe sizes. Bush also is carrying a gift of a golf putter for South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo.



Margaret Thatcher

Tories narrowly retain 'safest' seat

LONDON (AP) — The governing Conservative Party narrowly retained one of its safest parliamentary seats Friday against a strong show of voter disapproval of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's policies.

The special election in the wealthy Richmond district in northern England saw the Tory majority tumble from nearly 20,000 votes to 2,600, saved from defeat only by a split centrist vote.

It was the biggest collapse of Conservative support since Thatcher came to power in 1979.

The main opposition Labour Party, which earlier Friday kept its seat at Pontypridd in South Wales in another by-election, was beaten into fourth place in Richmond and candidate Frank Robson lost his deposit.

Thursday's elections, to fill vacant seats in the 650-seat House of Commons, came midway through Thatcher's third term with polls showing a sharp drop in Tory support and increased backing for Labour.

Richmond voters appeared to reflect the widespread hostility to government plans to reform the state-funded National Health Service and privatise the country's water companies, and the recent upsurge in inflation which has increased interest rates.

"There has been something of a protest vote against the government," admitted William Hague, 27, the victorious Conservative candidate in Richmond.

"We have had problems on the issue of the health reforms and on the proposed privatisation of water. We still have a lot of convincing to do," he said.

The Richmond election had been closely watched to see which of Britain's two feuding centrist parties — David Owen's Rump Social Democrats (SDP) or Paddy Ashdown's larger newly merged Social and Liberal Democrats (SLD) — would poll more votes.

The SDP did by a wide margin and Owen called it "a stunning result... (which) shows that sticking with your beliefs pays off in British politics."

The results gave Hague 19,543 votes, the SDP's Michael Porter 16,909, the SLD's Barbara Pearce 11,589 and Labour's Frank Robson 2,591.

This represented a 25.6 per cent swing from the Conservatives to the two centrist parties and would have given a single centrist candidate an easy victory over Hague.

Meningitis kills thousands in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA (R) — An outbreak of meningitis may have killed up to 10,000 people in southern Ethiopia, according to aid workers.

"We have seen a death rate we have not even seen during the famine of 1984," said Anne O'Mahoney of the Irish Relief Agency Concern Friday.

The outbreak is in the Wolaita District, about 160 kilometres south of Addis Ababa, where aid workers who returned recently quoted local officials as saying 7,356 people died between December and early February.

O'Mahoney said Concern believes that 10,000 people have probably died by now.

"Eventually the people there will develop an immunity but until that happens it looks as if there will be more deaths," she told reporters.

The Ministry of Health has reported 4,476 cases of meningitis in the country between

September and February with 457 deaths.

AID workers elsewhere in the country have reported no unusual outbreaks, although the disease has spread beyond its initial focus in Wolaita district.

Wolaita, one of the most densely populated parts of Ethiopia with 150,000 people, is unusually susceptible to meningitis, the workers said.

Meningitis is an infection of the brain's membranes which is spread by a virus. It is difficult to diagnose and can kill within days.

"It took us three weeks to confirm we had a meningitis outbreak because you need a specimen from a living person and nobody was living long enough to let us get such a specimen," O'Mahoney said.

Action Aid, one of the charities active in Ethiopia, said in London that its workers in the area were reporting 30 deaths a

day from meningitis in the two villages of Enact Lela and Dange Metayn in southern Ethiopia.

Meningitis kills within 18 hours and Action Aid spokeswoman Heather Budge-Reid said it was affecting mainly people between the ages of two and 20.

"Because of the dry air, it is highly infectious so if one person gets it the whole family will," she said.

Urgent work of pond clearing and preparing dams before the rainy season starts has been halted because of the danger that groups working together will help spread the disease.

Unless the work is done, lack of water storage capacity will damage the harvest, Budge-Reid said. The young people needed for planting when the rains start were the most susceptible to the disease and this was making matters worse, she added.

Moldavia leader backs language demands

(MOSCOW)AP — The Communist Party chief in Soviet Moldavia has endorsed demands by Moldavian nationalists to make their language official and use the alphabet of neighbouring Romania.

Thousands of demonstrators rallied in recent weeks in the republic's capital, Kishinev, to demand official status for the Moldavian language and introduction of a Latin alphabet, used for the otherwise identical Romanian language.

Moldavians have long objected to the Soviet insistence that they use the Cyrillic alphabet — the one used for Russian, a Slavic language — for their language, which is a Romance language in its linguistics.

Despite attempts by the Russian and Soviet authorities in align Moldavians with Russia, Romania has long maintained that Moldavians are really Romanians in language and culture.

Party leader Semyon Grossu went on the western republic's television Friday and condemned the activists for going too far, but he indicated support on the language issue, according to the official news agency TASS.

"Working out the conception of the Moldavian state language



is envisaged, as well as studying problems in connection with the transfer of written Moldavian to the Latin alphabet," TASS paraphrased Grossu as saying.

He said preparation is under way on a series of draft laws on the status of the Moldavian language, TASS reported.

The republic of 4.2 million people has had a history of foreign domination. Known as Bessarabia under the Turks, it was annexed by Russia from the Ottoman Empire in 1912. Romania seized the area in 1918 and ruled it until the Soviet Union took it over in 1940.

The following year, Romanian troops reoccupied the region. The Red Army reclaimed it in

1944.

In the television broadcast, Grossu condemned the recent nationalist demonstrations, saying they were unsanctioned and that their organisers "stir up

fright and emotions," TASS said. He called the protests an example of "extremism, demagoguery and irresponsibility."

Under Mikhail Gorbachev, nationalism has blossomed in many parts of the Soviet Union, especially the Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Gorbachev has allowed greater autonomy for the republics in cultural, economic and linguistic affairs. Activists have used his policy of glasnost, or openness, to vent national grievances.

Seipei funeral unites blacks

TUMAHOLE, South Africa (R) — Hundreds of South African blacks chanted anti-government slogans Saturday at the funeral of youth activist Stompie Seipei, whose death has embroiled Winnie Mandela in a scandal.

"Long live Mandela" the crowd of about 600 shouted. But it was jailed nationalist leader Nelson Mandela they were praising, not his wife Winnie, who has been denounced by many in the black community for the aggressive conduct of her bodyguards.

Three of those bodyguards, members of the self-styled Mandela United Football Club, have been accused of murdering Seipei, a 14-year-old anti-apartheid activist.

Neither Mrs. Mandela nor her bodyguards were referred to directly at the funeral service in

Tumahole, a shantytown about 100 kilometres southwest of Johannesburg.

But about 500 metres away, an old election poster had "Winnie is a killer" daubed on it.

Inside the tiny Roman Catholic Church, however, the mood was one of reconciliation and Seipei was eulogised as a martyr.

"We should not point fingers at other people because Stompie lived for unity," one speaker, McLean Skosana, said. "We must not commit ourselves, because we do not know who was responsible for Stompie's death."

Outside, the crowd denounced the government's apartheid policies of racial segregation, despite the presence of plain clothes police filming the proceedings.

Surprisingly, the authorities

did not ban or restrict Saturday's event, the first time a funeral with overtly political overtones has not been curbed in recent years.

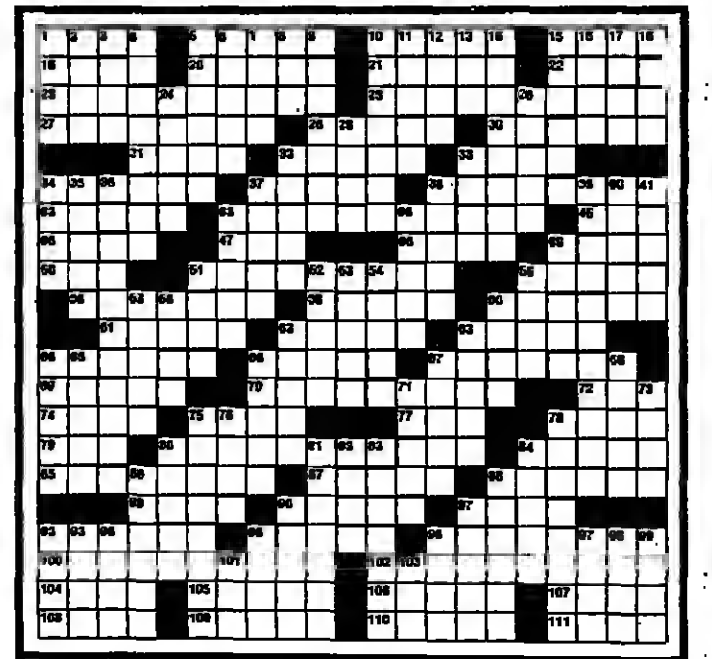
The African National Congress (ANC), South Africa's outlawed black nationalist group, urged blacks Saturday not to allow themselves to be split by the scandal surrounding Mrs. Mandela.

The ANC, in a statement issued in Lusaka, also condemned the murder of a Soweto girl, Finkie Msomi, four days ago. Police said they suspect she was killed by Mrs. Mandela's bodyguards.

Mrs. Mandela and the bodyguards assert the youths were being sexually molested, a charge strongly denied by the church.

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Etkeson



Last Week's Cryptograms

- Officials most officiate, referees are referred to, and an ideal empire is imperialist.
- Barber disinherited his grandson. Could be the last got his last heir cut.
- You should settle petty spats with sweet reason, not hot tempers and many irate words.
- Too many good guys hold a Robie Hood is our best role model.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. IRA MAWI ISOTPW OT BOKA UNA KNAA, MYI SFY ZYWI GUS GRATIS IF PAI IF IRAZ.

—By Les Sherry

2. WQVRMOZS WIVLCE PTML LAV LRV LOPV LI NBZQZ R LBITSBL OZ NCRAQOZS CBEPPV.

—By Gordon Miller

3. COMMUN INM ING KIO UCXT LOCKNUT, AOK LIUTN INM XJGOCT ANJAXX MLCBUT.

—By Ed Haddleton

4. AZACZ YZXUZF YGAUV ZH QAGSPQZHGJ ZJB XCFQ AGHXC YZHQCFQ PH DPK YPQV GACHGF.

—By Sally L. Murray

